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# WORLD SOCCER

2 BROADWAY

The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

45p

## FOCUS ON SCOTLAND'S WORLD CUP HOPES

## The road to Argentina

## World Cup latest

DANNY McGRAIN (Scotland)

# RALF EDSTROM Sweden

World SOCCER

# CRUYFF—WILL HE PLAY?

**AS WORLD SOCCER was going to press, so reports from Spain were becoming more and more insistent that Johann Cruyff will, after all, play for Holland in the World Cup Finals.**

**The Dutch superstar has insisted for the past 12 months that he will quit at the end of his contract with Barcelona in June, but . . . New York Cosmos have been trying to tempt him for some time to play on in the United States.**

**And now this pressure has been supplemented by massive cash offers which would involve Cruyff in playing in the World Cup to boost his image so he could be 'sold' more firmly on the American sports market.**

**According to early reports Cruyff had been offered about £1 million — half to play 10 games for New York Cosmos later this year, the rest for appearing in the World Cup. In this latter case the cash burden would be shared by Warner Communications, the corporation behind Cosmos, and the Dutch FA, the KNVB.**

**The contract would also include a couple of matches to benefit Unicef, the United Nations' children's fund.**

**Cruyff has repeatedly denied these reports, but Cosmos officials have been in Spain talking with Cruyff recently, and no-one would categorically deny the reports.**

**Also . . . when Cruyff agreed originally in 1973 to join Barcelona he and the club raised a massive smokescreen by pretending that talks had broken down, until they had everything tied up. . . .**

# *European Cup semi-finals*

EUROPEAN Cup-holders Liverpool face Borussia Moenchengladbach in the semi-final of this year's competition — a repeat of last year's final which Liverpool won 3-1.

The draw has kept Liverpool and Italians, Juventus, apart. Juventus meet Bruges in the other semi-final.

The full draw for the three European competitions is:

**CHAMPIONS CUP**

Juventus (Italy) v. Bruges (Belgium)

Borussia Moenchengladbach (W. Germany) v. Liverpool (England).

**CUP WINNERS CUP**

Dynamo Moscow (USSR) v. Austria Wien.

Twente Enschede (Holland) v. Anderlecht (Belgium).

**UEFA CUP**

Grasshoppers (Switzerland) v. Bastia (France).

PSV Eindhoven (Holland) v. Barcelona (Spain).

The first legs will be played on March 29 with the return legs on April 12.

**NEXT MONTH**

## Scotland in colour

**Centre-spread special**

**A BONUS next month when WORLD SOCCER brings you a special souvenir centre spread — in colour — of Scotland. This is in addition to the usual colour front cover which features a team group of another World Cup Final side, Hungary.**

**Interest in the World Cup will be mounting still further in the coming weeks and WORLD SOCCER is keeping an eye on events all over the globe as the 16 finalists prepare for their Argentinian date in June. To make absolutely sure you keep in touch may we recommend that you place a regular order for WORLD SOCCER.**

**THIS MONTH**

**The World Cup trail is featured throughout the magazine. We analyse Scotland on pages 6-9 and look at the players most likely to make the trip to Argentina. On pages 3-4 South American expert Eric Weil brings you the latest from Rio de Janeiro, the World Cup Who's Who is continued on pages 14-15 and the Countdown — a look at developments in all the camps — is featured on pages 20-23. There's a super World Cup chart on the centre spread and much, much more besides.**

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**FRONT COVER PICTURE**

**Scotland's Danny McGrain is featured in colour on our front cover this month and is one of the players featured in our Scotland special on pages 6-9 this month.**

# ARGENTINA

# PROB TRA STA

**GOALKEEPER Hugo Gatti made a strange request to national team coach Cesar Menotti shortly before the World Cup squad was due to start training at Mar del Plata in February, the Atlantic seaside resort and World Cup venue 400 km from Buenos Aires. He wanted to start training a month later, because he was not feeling fully fit and meanwhile he would train with his club, Boca Juniors, who were tuning up for the new season at nearby Nechochea, but there he would be able to take it easy and train as much as he felt able to.**

Menotti's reply was to exclude Gatti from the squad (because he had already been passed fit by the Argentine FA's doctor) and include goalkeeper La Volpe as a standby on the list of players who cannot be transferred abroad until after the World Cup.

But Gatti was one of 15 First Division players on the shopping list of Robert Kap, representative of a group which wants to start soccer in Texas, who was here at the time. The list also included other World Cup men Ricardo Villa — a half for whom he was willing to pay a million dollars — and defender Tarantini. The players cannot be transferred abroad until after the World Cup, but there is nothing to stop them getting out of the squad by withdrawing or bad performances, though it would still be up to Menotti whether they are kept on the list of "untransferables".

Gatti has been Menotti's first choice goalkeeper although he has had frequent problems with his knee lately. Later he told journalists that he was tired of the responsibility of national team duty and wanted to get out anyway. Argentina has no goalkeeping problems however. The other two in the squad are experienced replacements — Baley, who faced England and Scotland last year, and Fillol, although with only one solitary international appearance — during the last World Cup finals — has always been close to selection and spoilt his own chances not long ago by walking out on the national team to play for his club, River Plate for whom he has earned many points with miraculous saves.

More serious is the continued absence of experienced team captain Carrascosa (38 caps) who withdrew because his wife was expecting a baby during the World Cup and Menotti has not been able to make him change his mind. Carrascosa was the one success in a weak defence against European teams last year.

The 20 and 15-match suspensions handed out by the Argentine FA to Independiente halves Larrosa and Galvan threatened to keep both out of the World Cup, but the FA has now bent its own rules to permit them to play. Defender Olguin had meanwhile been suspended for 30 days by his club, San Lorenzo, but this will only keep him out of the first couple of friendlies.

So with still no definite news on the availability of defender Enrique Wolff (Real Madrid), half Oswaldo Piazza (St Etienne) — who would both add much needed height in defence and the middle — and forward Mario Kempes (Valencia) who could add much needed punch, the present squad is substantially the same which faced seven European teams (Poland 3-1, West Germany 1-3, England 1-1, Scotland 1-1, France 0-0, Yugoslavia 1-0 and East Germany 2-0) in Buenos Aires last year with varied fortunes.

## Understanding

Although from the list of 21 called up on that occasion defenders Carrascosa and Pernia, halves Bochini and Rocha, forwards Trossero and P. Gonzalez are missing, only the exclusion of Bochini has caused any comment. His excellent understanding with Independiente club mate Bertoni had distinct advantages in a team where halves and forwards frequently failed to connect. Bochini's immediate answer to omission were outstanding performances for his club in both legs of the national championship final in which he fittingly scored the goal which won the title.

Brought in as replacements are Talleres' excellent defender Oviedo and midfielder Valencia (both with previous international experience) and an exciting new forward, Bravo; defenders Pagnanini (Independiente — only once a full international, but with plenty of experience from his Libertadores Cup winning days with Estudiantes de La Plata), safe Bottaniz (Union) and Capurro (Newell's), both uncapped, the latter also good as a close marking half . . . and, of course, goalkeeper Fillol.

These changes should hardly alter the eventual starting eleven from last year, unless Wolff, Piazza and Kempes come back in time.

Most capped player is winger Houseman with 41 full internationals and the only one, apart from Fillol, from the last World Cup finals squad. And with only three complete newcomers (Capurro, Bottaniz and Bravo) and the other 18 (excluding La Volpe) sharing 305 full international appearances between them, the Argentine squad can be considered fairly experienced, although not as much of this experience as Menotti would have liked is against European teams and methods.

Abroad their World Cup chances have been rated higher than at home where local fans expect too much, forgetting firstly that enough leading players to form a better and

**ARGENTINA WORLD CUP SQUAD IN TRAINING**

| | Club | Age | Caps |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Goalkeepers** | | | |
| Hector Baley | Huracan | 27 | 11 (12) |
| Ubaldo Fillol | River Plate | 27 | 1 (1) |
| **Backs** | | | |
| Jorge Olguin | San Lorenzo | 25 | 23 (24) |
| Miguel Oviedo | Talleres Cordoba | 27 | 6 (3) |
| Daniel Passarella | River Plate | 24 | 22 (16) |
| Alberto Tarantini | (unattached) | 22 | 38 (25) |
| Daniel Killer | Racing Club | 28 | 19 (24) |
| Ruben Pagnanini | Independiente | 28 | 1 (0) |
| Armando Capurro | Newell's Old Boys | 29 | 0 (0) |
| Victor Bottaniz | Union Santa Fe | 24 | 0 (0) |
| **Halves** | | | |
| Osvaldo Ardiles | Huracan | 25 | 29 (31) |
| Americo Gallego | Newell's Old Boys | 22 | 41 (33) |
| Daniel Valencia | Talleres Cordoba | 22 | 31 (11) |
| Ricardo Villa | Racing Club | 25 | 14 (11) |
| Ruben Galvan | Independiente | 25 | 9 (8) |
| Omar Larrosa | Independiente | 30 | 6 (5) |
| **Forwards** | | | |
| Daniel Bertoni | Independiente | 22 | 27 (12) |
| Rene Houseman | Huracan | 24 | 42 (41) |
| Leopoldo Luque | River Plate | 29 | 27 (26) |
| Humberto Bravo | Talleres Cordoba | 26 | 0 (0) |
| Oscar Ortiz | River Plate | 24 | 8 (10) |

Standing by (also training): Goalkeeper Ricardo La Volpe (San Lorenzo) 6 full internationals played; Half Diego Maradona (Argentinos Juniors) 3 and back Hugo Alves (Boca Juniors) 0.

Caps (before series of warm up internationals prior to World Cup): The first figure is the one given out officially by the Argentine FA and includes junior and certain other not full internationals. The figure in brackets is for full internationals according to the writer's records.

# PERU

**PERU'S 33 players, who started World Cup training at Chiclacayo, 28 km from the capital, Lima, on February 10, includes 13 of the 16 players who took the country through the qualifying rounds last year. As already mentioned in WORLD SOCCER, most of these players are old and past their best, like defender Chumpitaz, who is 34, half Cubillas (28), forwards Sotil (27) and Ramirez (29) who played in that excellent Peruvian team under Brazilian coach Waldir Pereira (Didi), a former World Cup player himself, which reached the quarterfinals of the 1970 World Cup in Mexico before going out 4-2 to the eventual champions, Brazil. That team played the Brazilian type of soccer and had the players for it.**

**The rest of the 33 lack international experience and, going by the recently finished local championship, very few (if any) of them can be expected to shine in World Cup final matches.**

**Of the original 33, defender Julio Melendez, also 34, and goalkeeper Jose Gonzalez Ganoza failed to pass rigorous three day physical tests. Melendez, the captain last year, said it was due to a knee injury received while playing for Boca Juniors in Argentina 10 years ago and it had not troubled him since so that he felt he should have been given a chance to show his paces in the national team. Ganoza was found to have had a hernia for the last few years which had also not troubled him and he was also indignant and said he would never play for the national team again.**

**Coach Marcos Calderon, who took Peru to the South American championship in 1975 (which has not been held since) lacks experience of top level World Cup soccer. He says Peru could cause a surprise, basing his**

# ELEMS AS NING RTS

## From ERIC WEIL in Buenos Aries

more experienced squad than the present one have emigrated to foreign clubs — in this respect Argentina has been worse hit than any other country — and secondly that the local league standard continues to be so poor . . . and most clubs use defensive methods with which, Menotti says, a national team will get nowhere . . . that a brilliant national team can hardly be expected to emerge.

As already mentioned in previous issues of World Soccer, the defence last year was weak, especially against high centres, slow at clearing and turning defence into attack while the man who shone, Carrascosa, is now out. Halves tended to overdo mid-field transportation and the attack was shot shy and, partly because of what went on behind, also lacked surprise.

It is difficult to see this team as a whole improving without the inclusion of some players from abroad in good time or unless the World Cup motivates them to some special effort. Last June, in Buenos Aires, they were held 0-0 by France who are considered to be the weakest team in Argentina's World Cup group. Earlier they beat an experimental Hungarian side — tired after a lengthy South American tour — by 5-1 and the last time they faced Italy was in the 1974 World Cup finals when the score was 1-1.

Both Hungary and Italy, also in the same group, seem to have improved since then. Improvement will be needed from Argentina also to reach the quarter-finals and Menotti said he hoped they would have more luck on the field than in the draw.

**Argentina first choice goalkeeper Hugo Gatti, separated from the team.**

# Squad looks weak

**optimism not on his team's chances against Scotland, but on the belief that Holland, some of whose players do not want to come to Argentina, will not be the power they were. But Calderon's talk seems to be aimed more at giving his players confidence and he said earlier that a psychiatrist would be engaged for the same purpose.**

**Apart from actual training, a government committee continues to run all Peru's World Cup preparations and present plans are for the team to play a series of training matches at home against strong club sides — leading Argentine clubs were being contacted, but it now seems that Peru's first big test will come in home and away games with Argentina for the annual "Ramon Castilla" cup to take the place of Argentina-Brazil encounters for the "Roca" Cup which the latter country has pulled out of with various excuses. Then Peru will go on tour with matches being arranged against Czechoslovakia, West Germany, Spain, Tunisia and Mexico.**

**Calderon would have liked to play Peru's World Cup opponents Scotland, Holland and Iran on this tour, but apparently this could not be arranged. He feels however that Czechoslovakia (knocked out by Scotland in their qualifying group last year) have a similar style to Scotland's that Tunisia play like Iran (???) and that the next best thing to facing Holland would be a match against World Cup holders West Germany.**

**Goalkeepers are not Peru's strong point and their best is Argentine born Ramon Quiroga (25) who has quick reflexes, but is called "Loco" (madman) because of his unorthodox forays out of goal. The other two on the squad lack international experience.**

**The defence could be a weak point. Hector Chumpitaz and Julio Melendez have been the strong men in the national team for the last 10 years. Now Chumpitaz, still dependable, is 34 and has slowed up considerably — as indeed also has Melendez. There are good reserves in German Legula (22), considered Peru's brightest newcomer in defence in the last five years in whom Barcelona have shown interest, and fast Tito Reyna (24), but both lack experience. Other experienced defenders are Eleazar Soria (28) who is good going into attack, Ruben Diaz (26), mainly a tight marker, and Jose Navarro (29), but they are all past their best and there is no one with Chumpitaz's attacking flair and dangerous goal shots of his younger days.**

**Calderon tried several defensive set-ups during last year's World Cup qualifying games, but as a whole the team appeared to have no definite plans and relied mainly on the individual skills — at a slow pace — of their experienced veterans. But against European players, which Calderon acknowledges to be stronger and faster, he is thinking of zonal defence without close marking.**

**In the half-line Peru have their cleverest player in Teofilo Cubillus, 28 years old and an international for the last 10 (during most of which he has been the team's chief organiser), but he is now also way past his best, slow and apparently not fully fit. Alfredo Quesada (28) and Jose Velasquez (25) are other experienced halves as well as Percy Rojas, an excellent ball player. But while Quesada is still one of the most reliable, Velasquez has lost form and Rojas has rarely played his best in internationals. The best newcomer is Raul Gorritti (23), also a very good ball player.**

**In attack, wingers Juan Oblitas (24), top scorer during last year's qualifying games, and Juan Munante (27) are very fast and have both been internationals since 1973. Many say Munante is the best winger in America, but he will not be able to join the squad until mid April when his Mexican club, Universidad Autonoma, releases him. Munante is the only player in the squad now still with a foreign club. Other tried internationals Hugo Sotil (27) and Oswaldo Ramirez (29) are past their best. Sotil does not relish hard training and is out of shape — which cost him his place with Barcelona last year.**

**Calderon can opt for "club unit" selection. Over half the squad come from two clubs — champions Alianza Lima (8) and vice-champions Sporting Cristal (10) — and they, like the rest, will not play for their clubs again until after the World Cup. He can rely on an old, experienced but slow team or a young inexperienced one, or he might just hit on the right mixture of both . . . but whatever he does, it does not look as if Peru will cause any surprises.**

**Peru's 33**

**Goalkeepers:** *Ramon Quiroga (Sporting Cristal), Juan Caceres (Alianza Lima), Osmiro Saxon (Colegio Nacional Iquitos).* **Backs:** *Alfonso Reyes (Sport Boys), Jose Navarro (Sporting Cristal), Eleazar Soria (Sporting Cristal), Tito Reyna (Melgar), Rodolfo Manco (Municipal), Leandro Navarro (Universitario), Salvador Salguero (Alianza Lima), German Legua (Municipal), Ruben Diaz (Universitario), Hector Chumpitaz (Sporting Cristal), Antonio Trigoso (Universitario), Roberto Rojas (Alianza Lima).* **Halves:** *Alfredo Quesada (Sporting Cristal), Jose Velasquez (Alianza Lima), Raul Gorritti (Sporting Cristal), Jaime Duarte (Alianza Lima), Pedro Burgos (Sport Boys), Arturo Baron (Bologna) de Turin), Teofilo Cubillas (Alianza Lima), Percy Rojas (Sporting Cristal), Cesar Cueto (Alianza Lima).* **Forwards:** *Juan Munante (Universidad Autonoma, Mexico), Robert Mosquera (Sporting Cristal), Andres Zegarra (Melgar), Hugo Sotil (Alianza Lima), Oswaldo Ramirez (Sporting Cristal), Jose Vasquez (Bologna) de Torino), Juan Oblitas (Sporting Cristal), Henry Peralta (Colegio Nacional de Iquitos), Ernesto Labarthe (Sport Boys).*

## WORLD SOCCER'S WORLD CUP FOCUS ON SCOTLA

# MacLeod is ideal marshall

THE FIRST time I saw Ally MacLeod he was a fair-haired, skilful winger, playing for Blackburn Rovers in the First Division in England.

Now he has been called the "Muhammad Ali of football" for his euphoric, bubbling confidence as he leads Scotland into the World Cup Finals: and MacLeod has made such an impact it's hard to believe that he took over only a year ago.

His is a post which has never been noted for long-serving incumbents. Matt Busby did the job a couple of times, so did Jock Stein — stepping out after the defeat in the 1966 qualifiers by Italy in Naples. The Scots had to field a makeshift team because of English club demands. Ron Yeats, the Liverpool defender, tried his best at centre-forward, but the Scots were beaten 3-0 and eliminated.

Bobby Brown did the job for a while, then in 1971 Tommy Docherty was persuaded to take over. He did so on the basis that he would pick his own team without the complication of a selection committee, and he brought to the job the confidence and ebullience MacLeod has been displaying.

Docherty lasted only a year. The offer to take over ailing Manchester United was too tempting, and so the Scots turned to former international winger, Willie Ormond. A determined, home-loving man, Ormond did well in the 1974 World Cup, but it wasn't too much of a surprise early in 1977 when he returned to club football with Hearts.

On several occasions the parting of the ways with the SFA had been imminent, so Ormond clearly decided to get out when he could choose the time and manner of his departure.

Ormond also runs a pub in Edinburgh — a city which played a vital role in the progression of MacLeod, for it was to Hibernian that he returned after several useful seasons with Blackburn, which included a losers' medal in the 1960 FA Cup Final.

After two years as Hibs captain, MacLeod moved to Ayr, becoming player-coach and later manager. In 10 years they didn't win much under him, but he established them in the premier division, and that was no mean achievement for a club which had little ambition or confidence before he injected his own special brand of magic.

MacLeod had made his mark, and the next step was further up the managerial ladder, to Aberdeen. Here he won his first trophy — the Scottish Cup. And remarkably, in the 1976 final, Aberdeen came from a goal behind to overtake Celtic.

When Ormond quit last spring, MacLeod was no surprise choice. His first match was a British championship game away to Wales, at Wrexham. The result was a 0-0 draw. Judgement on MacLeod was suspended. But not for long. The Scots beat Northern Ireland 3-0, then England at Wembley 2-1! The delighted fans, drunk with success (and other ingredients) took the old Empire Stadium apart (some would say not before time).

Since then MacLeod hasn't been able to put a foot wrong. His attacking philosophy which wiped out the dispirited Czechs and the brave but limited Welsh, has also seen a useful South American tour last summer with victory in Chile, a deserved draw in Argentina, and defeat in Brazil.

# SCOTTISH BACK

THE POPULAR image of the Scottish football supporter is of a soccer-mad tartan-clad, alcohol-oiled fanatic whose main annual concern is victory over England — a match which counts far more than any progress in the World Cup.

The truth is far removed.

I'm sorry if I'm destroying a cherished illusion, a legendary figure made in the image of the drunken hooligans who swept across Wembley last May digging up the turf and smashing the goalposts after Scotland's 2-1 win over England.

In fact, for the vast majority of Scottish fans it will matter more this summer what happens in Argentina than the result at Hampden. Naturally, they will be determined that Scotland should beat England for the third time in a row in the British championship, but . . . it's the World Cup on which most eyes are focused.

Yet the irony is that for years the Scots were most reluctant to take their football gospel beyond the British Isles. For example, they had played nearly 150 internationals — all against the other home countries — before in 1929 they met Norway in their first international against a continental team.

And it wasn't until the fiasco of their 1954 World Cup match with Uruguay that they first faced a South American side.

Yet historians of Central European soccer place more emphasis on the Scottish influence than the English, in the short-passing style traditionally held to have originated north of the border.

Scotland's first international — the first in the modern era of organised association football — was played against England in Glasgow on November 30, 1872. It finished in a 0-0 draw, but a flame had been lit which was to engulf the world.

A year later the Scottish FA was set up, and in the domestic game the early years were dominated by the authoritarian amateur club, Queen's Park, whose officials ran the Scotland team as they would later own and run Hampden Park, one of the world's most famous stadia.

Hampden holds three attendance records. In 1937 some 149,000 saw England beat the Scots 3-1 — a record attendance for any match in Europe; in 1939 a record 118,000 saw Celtic face old rivals Rangers — the biggest crowd to see a League match in Britain; finally, in 1960, some 127,621 saw Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt 7-3 in the Champions Cup Final — a record for a European final.

Queen's Park won the Scottish Cup for its first three years of existence, but soon their reign was over and Scottish football had locked into the eternal dominance of Rangers and Celtic. It was in 1893 that professional soccer was officially permitted to stem the flow of players south to England which had denuded the Scotland team, and condemned them to only one win over England in five years.

Queen's Park remained amateur, but Celtic and Rangers were quickly the most professional of Scotland's professional clubs — even if it was only just over a year ago that Rangers finally abandoned their policy of signing only Protestants.

The clubs' religious war — Celtic, of course, representing the Catholics — has caused all sorts of trouble, upset and excitement. Also some problems for the other clubs, for only 13 times since 1893 have Celtic or Rangers not taken the league title!

In 1921 Rangers took a remarkable 76 points out of a possible 84, losing only one league game. Their best player was outside-left Alan Morton, who had joined from Queen's Park and earned fame as the "Wee Blue Devil" who inspired the destruction of England at Wembley in 1928. The so-called Wembley Wizards' forward line of Jackson, Dunn, Gallacher, James and Morton took the English defence apart, for a 5-1 win. Jackson scored a hat-trick, Alex James the other two.

Ironically, the Scottish team included five players from English league runners-up Huddersfield.

But, it wasn't all glory. Ibrox Park, Rangers' home, has seen more than its share of tragedy. Some 25 people were killed when a stand collapsed at the Scotland-England game in 1902, and worse was to

# ny Keir Radnedge

It's all experience, and since then MacLeod has been back to spy out the land again. He was impressed. Impressed enough to believe strongly that a European team can win the World Cup for the first time in the new world — he's tipped Hungary, incidentally, as a team to watch.

"The five grounds we visited are out of this world," he said, returning from Buenos Aires. "The playing surfaces are better than Wembley in its heyday. Any team who can't play on pitches like these shouldn't be there.

"There is loads of grass on them, and they aren't bumpy — which should be ideal for the European sides."

But MacLeod isn't sitting back complacently, despite the draw which has put Scotland into such a comparative easy group alongside Holland, Peru and Iran.

A Scottish colleague told me: "Trying to track him down is a hopeless task. He's like a will o'the wisp — here, there and everywhere."

And it's precisely this determination to be on the top of the job, to inspire determination, confidence and further Scotland's general cause and his own career as a manager that is MacLeod's greatest plus.

"We've got a draw that gives us a wonderful chance of qualifying for the second round," said MacLeod immediately after little Ricardito Havelange had pulled the coloured balls out of the goldfish bowl in the San Martin cultural centre.

"Only the 22 players and myself can let the country down now, and I don't think we will. Scotland have a bit of a reputation for struggling against the so-called lesser lights, but the squad this time is very professional.

"We play our first two matches in Cordoba and we are very happy with that because we wanted that as our headquarters. Playing the toughest match, against Holland, last, suits us too, because by then the group should have been decided."

One June 3 Scotland face Peru; on June 7, it's Iran. The Holland game is at Mendoza, at the foot of the Andes, on June 11.

MacLeod's stock is already high. His name is helping sell carpets, combat jackets, he's advertised the name of a major chain store, and more offers are pouring in.

What kind of response will he find if Scotland are successful?

Alan Rough, currently the first choice Scottish goalkeeper

# GROUND

follow in 1971, when 66 died on the terraces in the closing minutes of a 1-1 draw between Rangers and Celtic.

Fans were streaming out of the stadium when Colin Stein scored Rangers' late equaliser. The early departing fans turned back and in the melee crash barriers folded up under the pressure. It was the Ibrox disaster that later instigated the costly, but necessary, ground safety laws introduced by the government to try to prevent any recurrence.

**Scotland has given much to soccer, including some of the game's early heroes. Lord Kinnaird, a founder of the English FA, and William McGregor, the man behind the Football League, were both early Scots to make a mark.**

And John Thomson, the Celtic goalkeeper, was to become one of professional football's first martyrs. He died in 1931 after diving bravely at the feet of Rangers' centre-forward Sam English. Though Thomson, from Fife, was only 23, an estimated 30,000 turned out along the funeral route to pay their last respects.

Scottish football has thrown up many more heroes over the years — all lost at one time or another to the voracious English league, with the exception of three long-serving and loyal defenders — George Young and later John Greig of Rangers, and Billy McNeill of Celtic.

Young was an outstanding defender in the early and mid-1950s, when Scotland began to take their first painful steps into the world of competitive international soccer.

As far back as 1931 the Scots had learned — or should have learned — that the continentals were catching up. Austria beat them 5-0 and Italy 3-0 on a summer tour — though the Scots were without Rangers and Celtic players. And it was in 1950 that Austria also collected the double — becoming the first continental team to win at Hampden, by 1-0.

That was the year Scotland could have made a start in the World Cup. Out of FIFA in the 1930s, they missed the three pre-war tournaments. But could have gone to Brazil. The British championship

● *Continued overleaf*

# THE RESULTS

(Scotland since the 1974 World Cup)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1974: | | | |
| Nov 20 | Hampden | Scotland 1, Spain 2 (EC) | Bremner |
| 1975: | | | |
| Feb 5 | Valencia | Spain 1, Scotland 1 (EC) | Jordan |
| April 16 | Gothenburg | Sweden 1, Scotland 1 | MacDougall |
| May 13 | Hampden | Scotland 1, Portugal 0 | Artur o.g. |
| May 17 | Cardiff | Wales 2, Scotland 2 | Jackson, Rioch |
| May 20 | Hampden | Scotland 3, N. Ireland 0 | MacDougall, Dalglish, Parlane |
| May 24 | Wembley | England 5, Scotland 1 | Rioch pen |
| June 1 | Bucharest | Rumania 1, Scotland 1 (EC) | McQueen |
| Sept 3 | Copenhagen | Denmark 0, Scotland 1 (EC) | Harper |
| Oct 29 | Hampden | Scotland 3, Denmark 1 (EC) | Dalglish, Rioch, MacDougall |
| Dec 17 | Hampden | Scotland 1, Rumania 1 (EC) | Rioch |
| 1976: | | | |
| April 7 | Hampden | Scotland 1, Switzerland 0 | Pettigrew |
| May 6 | Hampden | Scotland 3, Wales 1 | Pettigrew, Rioch, E. Gray |
| May 8 | Hampden | Scotland 3, N. Ireland 0 | Gemmill, Masson, Dalglish |
| May 15 | Hampden | Scotland 2, England 1 | Masson, Dalglish |
| Sept 8 | Hampden | Scotland 6, Finland 0 | Rioch, Masson pen, Dalglish, A. Gray 2, E. Gray |
| Oct 13 | Prague | Czech. 2, Scotland 0 (WC) | |
| Nov 17 | Hampden | Scotland 1, Wales 0 (WC) | I. Evans og |
| 1977: | | | |
| April 27 | Hampden | Scotland 3, Sweden 1 | Hartford, Dalglish, J. Craig |
| | (Ormond resigns — MacLeod takes over) | | |
| May 28 | Wrexham | Wales 0, Scotland 0 | |
| June 1 | Hampden | Scotland 3, N. Ireland 0 | Dalglish 2, McQueen |
| June 4 | Wembley | England 1, Scotland 2 | McQueen, Dalglish |
| June 15 | Santiago | Chile 2, Scotland 4 | Dalglish, Macari 2, Hartford |
| June 18 | B. Aires | Argentina 1, Scotland 1 | Masson pen |
| June 23 | Rio | Brazil 2, Scotland 0 | |
| Sept 21 | Hampden | Scotland 3, Czech. 1 (WC) | Jordan, Hartford, Dalglish |
| Oct 12 | Liverpool | Wales 0, Scotland 2 (WC) | Masson pen, Dalglish |
| 1978: | | | |
| Feb 22 | Hampden | Scotland 3, Bulgaria 1 | Gemmill pen, Wallace |

Record since 1974 World Cup

| | P | W | D | L | F | A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Home | 15 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 36 | 9 |
| Away | 13 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 16 | 18 |
| Total | 28 | 17 | 7 | 4 | 52 | 27 |

**FOCUS ON SCOTLAND'S WORLD CUP HOPES . . . THE PLAYERS**

# Midfield? Try a pin and hope!

**SCOTLAND didn't do badly in 1974 — finishing as the only unbeaten team in the finals despite failing to reach the second round.**

But manager Willie Ormond didn't always find it easy welding the individual talents — not only on the field, but off it. When your squad contains men such as Denis Law, Billy Bremner and Jimmy Johnstone you have an explosive mixture.

And the Scots hope to have learned a lesson from what went on in 1974.

As SFA secretary Ernie Walker said, in announcing a cash bonus scheme: "It will all be down in black and white long before we fly out. The players will know exactly what they're getting for progressing into each stage. We don't want a repeat of some of the behind-the-scenes squabbling that went on in West Germany."

So, hopefully, manager Ally MacLeod will be able to concentrate on putting out his best team confident that the ancillary matters have been taken care of.

But what is his best team?

In some positions he seems embarrassed for choice. In others he appears to face insoluble difficulties.

MacLeod has already laid down two criteria for team selection. He's not interested in players who, for one reason or another, have failed to hold a place in their club's first team. And he's not prepared to take a risk

**Kenny Dalglish (left), Archie Gemmell and Martin Buchan, all chasing places in Scotland's World Cup squad**

● *Continued from previous page*

was used as a qualifying group and when, for the last game, England travelled to Hampden, both teams were sure of finishing in the first and second places and qualifying.

Yet oddly the Scots said they would go only if they topped the group. England won 1-0 . . . Scotland stayed at home.

They patted themselves on the back when they saw the fiasco of England's failure against Spain and the United States. But it was a short-sighted policy. In 1954 Scotland did go to Switzerland, but took only the bare minimum of a team without reserves. Manager Andy Beattie resigned on the eve of the tournament after a row with his selection committee, and the Scots lost 1-0 to Austria in Zurich, and were beaten out of sight, 7-0, by defending champions Uruguay.

For British fans it was a first chance to appreciate how the South Americans had caught up with the old masters. Obdulio Varela, Juan Schiaffino, Carlo Borges and Co gave the Scots a roasting.

In the 1958 qualifiers Scotland did well to overcome Spain and Switzerland, though the Spaniards had only themselves to blame for dropping some silly points despite the backbone of the great Real Madrid team of that era. But in the finals in Sweden, after drawing 1-1 with Yugoslavia, Scotland lost unaccountably 3-2 to Paraguay, and 2-1 to eventual third-place team, France.

That was to prove their last appearance in the finals for 16 years. One disaster followed another. In 1961 goalkeeper Frank Haffey suffered his nightmare match in the 9-3 defeat by England at Wembley, and in a Brussels play-off Czechoslovakia won 4-2 to go on to the World Cup finals in Chile — where they finished runners-up.

Scotland did have the satisfaction in 1967 of becoming the first team to beat England since they had won the World Cup. Yet it was only at this time that the Scots first entered the European championship — a competition in which they have consistently failed.

Missing the World Cup again in 1970, they achieved the distinction in 1974 of being the only team to return from West Germany unbeaten. The signal failure of wasting and misusing their domination against Zaire cost them qualification for the second round. Brazil squeezed into second place in their group on goal difference, behind Yugoslavia.

In European club tournaments Scotland have been more successful. While the English scorned the first Champions' Cup, Hibernian went to the semi-finals, and in 1967 Celtic became the first British and non-Latin team to take the crown, beating Internazionale 2-1 in Lisbon. They were runners-up to Feyenoord in 1970, and Rangers didn't do so badly either.

Beaten finalists in the Cup-winners' Cup in 1961 and 1967 — Bayern Munich foiled the Glasgow double in extra time — they made it third time lucky in defeating Moscow Dynamo in Barcelona in 1972.

Alas, the marauding stupidity of their own fans robbed Rangers of the chance of defending their crown. They were banned by UEFA's disciplinary committee.

Since then Scottish football seems to have slipped back in terms of club prestige, despite the streamlining of the league which now contains three divisions with a premier section of only 10 teams playing each other four times in a season. Celtic, at the time of writing, are third from bottom!

In international terms, however, Scotland remain awkward opponents, and the World Cup draw gives them a chance of their greatest achievement yet.

with anyone he hasn't tried at international level.

With only three matches before the finals — the British championship games against Wales, Northern Ireland and England — he doesn't have much more time to experiment. But he must have been a little disappointed that in the recent 2-1 friendly win over Bulgaria at Hampden injuries and club calls robbed him of almost a complete team.

After going behind in the eighth minute, the Scots fought level with an Archie Gemmill penalty, and then substitute Ian Wallace, from Coventry, grabbed the late winner.

It was a game played beofe an excellent 65,000 crowd which provided an international baptism for Coventry goalkeeper **Jim Blyth.** He's been in fine form this season, enjoying a remarkable game against Liverpool in the league in which he made some astonishing stops even before saving a Phil Neal penalty.

But MacLeod seems determined that Partick's **Alan Rough** will be his No. 1. Rough has wanted to leave Partick for some time, but clubs south of the border have been put off by his reputation as erratic — brilliant one moment, over-casual the next.

Rough took over in the 3-1 win against Wales two years ago and hasn't let Scotland down. Indeed, in the vital last qualifier against Wales at Liverpool it was his brilliant second-half save from John Toshack, when the score was 0-0, which helped turn the game.

Scotland's other goalkeeper for Argentina will presumably be **Bobby Clark** of Aberdeen. He's played 17 times for Scotland since making his debut, like Rough, against Wales. But that was all of 10 years ago!

Defence brings MacLeod most of his headaches. While he's unlikely to include **Willie Miller** and **Stuart Kennedy,** the Aberdeen pair who played against Bulgaria, in his final 22 except in emergency — a settled back four won't be easy to find.

For a start there's the problem of **Danny McGrain.** The Celtic right back has been out for several months with an ankle injury and, though in form one of the best in Europe, will he get enough first-team football to play his way into MacLeod's squad — even assuming his injury can be quickly sorted out now?

As if that wasn't enough MacLeod knows he must start the finals without his regular left-back, **Willie Donachie** (Manchester City), who misses the game with Peru because of a one-game suspension after two bookings. Donachie is a quick, wiry left back, and MacLeod could look to his under-21 left back, **Arthur Albiston** (Manchester United) for cover.

In the centre of defence it should be easier. Now that **Gordon McQueen** has finally achieved the transfer he wanted from Leeds to Manchester United for £500,000 he should soon settle back into the form which made him Scotland's best stopper.

Whether he is Europe's best, as his admirers claim, is another matter. But he has proved useful not only in defence, but in his occasional raids upfield which could unsettle both Peru and Iran. McQueen has scored a few useful goals in his time.

But who will partner him, cover him? **Tom Forsyth** is favourite. He's another man who, whatever the critics say, hasn't let MacLeod down. He, like club-mate and full-back contender **Sandy Jardine** from Rangers, missed the Bulgaria match because of injury.

That could have provided a chance for **Kenny Burns** (Nottingham Forest) or **Martin Buchan** (Manchester United) to restate their claims. But Burns was needed for the League

Don Masson

Cup semi-final second leg against Leeds, while the composed Buchan was out injured. Burns, a reformed character since Brian Clough signed him from Birmingham last summer, has been one of the mainstays behind Forest's remarkable season.

If he does make the trip to Argentina, and plays, it will be interesting to see just how deep are the inroads Clough has made in cooling the temper of a player who for too long spoiled his own prospects with his explosive nature.

Scotland's midfield has been labelled the best in Europe, by some of their fans and journalists. Certainly it is well-balanced, and MacLeod is fortunate to have such a choice.

A month or two ago I would have had little hesitation in naming **Bruce Rioch, Don Masson** (both Derby) and **Asa Hartford** (Manchester City) as the men most likely to start against Peru. Now that wouldn't be such a wise bet.

Both Rioch and Masson have been taken to task by Derby manager Tommy Docherty for letting their minds wander to thoughts of Argentina, rather than concentrating on their club's league and cup demands.

Rioch is a much-travelled man. Docherty took him to Aston Villa for £100,000 from Luton some years back, and he moved on to Derby in February 1974. Nearly three years later he was sold to Everton, but stayed only 11 months until Docherty, newly-installed at Derby, brought him back.

Born in Aldershot near London, he qualifies for Scotland through his parents' background, and could be called the first Englishman to captain Scotland!

He missed the 2-0 qualifying win over Wales however, because of injury, when Masson took over as captain. Then with Queen's Park Rangers, this midfielder of subtle but unreliable talents, was outstanding against the Czechs and the Welsh, and soon after joined Rioch at Derby in an exchange for Leighton James.

However he made a bad start with his new club, and his chances of settling in weren't helped by rumours recently that he might soon be on his way again — this time to Manchester United.

But if Rioch and Masson have question-marks against their names, Hartford at least seems secure. Introduced as a boy wonder in the league at West Bromwich, Hartford nearly went to Leeds in a six-figure transfer deal. But this was called off by Leeds' distraught manager, Don Revie, when it was discovered Hartford had a hole in the heart.

That didn't prevent him developing into one of the hardest-working midfielders in the

Bruce Rioch

league, and he duly earned his move from what was then the depression of second division West Bromwich to Manchester City, where he has become a key man.

Scotland have relied on him too, MacLeod generally preferring his slightly-more refined approach to that of **Archie Gemmill** — another Nottingham Forest hero this season. Gemmill, an occasional captain of Scotland, is clearly a man who responds to the determined, confident, approach. He has proved that in his time under Clough first at Derby, now at Forest, and MacLeod may well have a similar effect.

Two more players are competing in midfield. One is **Lou Macari,** the one-time Celtic man who has been one of Manchester United's most consistent performers over the past few years; the other is Liverpool's latest £352,000 capture from Middlesbrough, **Graeme Souness.**

Souness has an odd background. Originally with Tottenham, he became homesick, but they later regretted their decision to release him when he established himself at Middlesbrough under Jackie Charlton. A moody but skilful and thoughtful player he first played for Scotland nearly four years ago, at 21.

But he couldn't play his normal game alongside the demanding Billy Bremner, so it was only against Bulgaria that Souness at last demonstrated his potential. Scotland's best player, he followed up three days later by netting his first goal for Liverpool in an impressive 3-1 win over Manchester United.

Liverpool's **Ken Dalglish** has to be one, Manchester United's **Joe Jordan** the other. Dalglish has helped Anfield forget all about Kevin Keegan since his £440,000 move from Celtic last summer, while Jordan, now that he has finally got away from Leeds, is much-feared in South America for his ability in the air.

He's been criticised for not scoring regularly enough, but his old-fashioned tactics have the value — particularly in a Scotland team in which MacLeod hopes to use a traditional left-winger.

**Willie Johnston** (West Bromwich) was the scourge of Czechoslovakia and Wales, but MacLeod will want to take a look at Nottingham Forest revelation **John Robertson** before deciding who gets first bite of the cherry in Argentina.

**Arthur Graham** of Leeds is another left-winger on the fringe, but it seems that the other forwards **Ian Wallace** (Coventry), **Derek Johnstone** (Rangers) and **Andy Gray** (Aston Villa) are the most likely from whom the other stand-bys will be selected.

Argentina '78

# ITALY ARE SHORT OF

by ERIC BATTY

**WATCHING the draw on TV it seemed to me at one stage that the officials of FIFA, in their undeniable wisdom, were going to make a real hash of things. No one has even pretended for some time past that it really is a draw in the full sense of the word. Rather it is an arrangement.**

But with two teams decided for each group and eight more to come, I had a nasty feeling that the way it had been arranged, it was going to be a shambles with two over-strong groups and two very weak ones.

Genuine 'luck of the draw' alone prevented it from being a full scale mockery for with West Germany and Poland the first two teams settled for group two, fate decreed they should be joined by two rank outsiders, Mexico and Tunisia. Having got that off my chest, let me confess that I will never be really satisfied with the draws for the World Cup even at the qualifying stage, unless FIFA let me organise it myself.

## Hard time

As it turned out then there was just one over strong group, that which contains the host nation Argentina, and it is on paper so strong that there is a good chance that the Argentinians are going to have a hard time qualifying. This has never been allowed to happed before, for even in 1954 'little' Switzerland as the host country were given every chance of reaching the quarter finals, as were Mexico in 1970.

It is significant that neither of these two countries has ever played more than a background role in any World Cup, and the Argentinians have every right to feel aggrieved. With home advantage in their favour, and the partisan home fans are like having an extra player in each game in Buenos Aires, they should still struggle through, but who will go with them?

The group is so strong that anyone could fairly have protested — as French team manager Michel Hidalgo did — though it was too late for FIFA to do anything about it, even if they wanted to.

So whether we or the participating teams like it or not, we are stuck with an extraordinarily strong group one that is full of possibilities.

One saving grace is that in my personal opinion the Italians are blown out and nothing like as strong as they were half way through the qualifying competition.

This happens to Italy with a regularity that quite rightly alarms and outrages the Italian public, and results in no small measure for their long held habit of retaining old and well proven players for too long.

Roberto Bettega of Italy

It happened in 1966 and again in 1974, and if no one could have imagined that the unkown little men from North Korea would beat them, it was quite predictable in 1974, and I said so in this magazine before the series in West Germany began.

Yet despite the evidence that I had seen, namely that Gianni Rivera and Luigi Riva, the two key men in Italy's attack, were both over the hill for the top level game, it still came as a surprise to many neutrals and most Italians when they failed to qualify against Poland and Argentina.

This time, unless the Italian team boss Enzo Bearzot can come up with some good younger players quickly, I fear we are going to see a repeat performance. Italy's problems are primarily in defence but they do not end there which makes them all the more alarming. First of all, as most neutral judges will agree, I have seen clear signs that Giacinto Facchetti above all, and Dino Zoff not far behind him, are now too old.

## Strongest defences

Fachetti cannot even persuade his club manager at Inter to give him a regular game, and I suspect that if Zoff was not protected by one of the strongest defences in world football at Juventus, he too would have lost his place in the league side.

Fachetti's form has been one the slide for some time but it was largely hidden because since Italy beat England 2-0 in Rome, their most important matches were only against Finland and Luxembourg who simply did not have the players to expose him.

To a large extent, this can be said with equal truth about Zoff. At the pace the game is played today, only the most remarkable players can go on performing at the highest level after the age of thirty. Even then th can only do it in midfield, where experien and knowledge of the game both count; goal behind a strong defence, and with th purely defensive Italian style *libero*.

**There can be no argument that in goal helps an awful lot to know what goalkeeping about. Just saving shots is not the art goalkeeping for in fact, diving around on th line is a sign of bad 'keeping.**

Not really wanting to dwell too long on th Italians, they were shown up at Wembley b England who exposed all their problems.

To understand just how bad th performance was it is necessary to accept th view that Enzo Bearzot did not send his tear out to win, as some fanatical Englan supporters think.

Let me hasten to add here that I am no knocking England, but merely putting th game into its right perspective. Italy did no need to win in order to qualify, and Facchet & Co were sent out at Wembley to do a jo that would mean qualification.

## Torn about

As we all know, Italy did qualify, but from Bearzot's point of view it must have been alarming to see how easily his once impregnable defence was torn about; how his four man midfield with Franco Causio and Giancarlo Antognoni were out-played and swamped, and how his attack, even before the injury to Francesco Graziani was played out of the game.

England took Italy to the cleaners in every department, and Bearzot must have been thankful when the final whistle blew and England had only scored twice because on the play, and indeed on the game and chances, it could have been a much more decisive defeat.

Let Italy play like that in the World Cup proper and it will be another 'Korea' for the *squadra Azzura*, and Bearzot cannot fancy being suspended as the 1966 manager was.

Bearzot, I am sure, shares my view of his present side for in recent internationals he has experimented in every department of the team, looking for younger players who can fill the gaps. He had a little over six months in which to effect a quick repair job and whether he succeeds or not depends on the quality of the young players at his disposal.

Looking from afar at Italy's recent performances, I would say that Bearzot is still short of the team he needs to do well in the World Cup, for even if some of his new caps have the talent, there is no time to give them the necessary experience and build them into a new side.

Having read all that, no one will be surprised when I say that I cannot see Italy doing anything in the World Cup, and I

# STILL TEAM

## GROUP ONE

**ARGENTINA FRANCE**
**HUNGARY ITALY**

JUNE 2: Hungary v Argentina .....Buenos Aires (River Plate)
France v Italy .....(Mar Del Plata)
JUNE 6: Argentina v France .....Buenos Aires (River Plate)
Italy v Hungary .....Mar Del Plata
JUNE 10: Italy v Argentina .....Buenos Aires (River Plate)
France v Hungary .....Mar Del Plata

personally have doubts about their ability to qualify from group one.

Argentina are in much the same shape, for Luis Menotti has made no secret of the fact that he needs men with experience of the game in Europe. Given Marion Kempes and Osvaldo Piazzi in the key centre forward and sweeper roles, his team could be transformed, but he must have known that he could not have either man by his February 15 deadline.

### Good measure

That was probably thrown out for digesting by his critics and never meant to be serious and I think we shall see that Menotti will incorporate both Kempes and Piazza just as soon as he can, and perhaps even add Enrique Wolff of Real Madrid for good measure.

What it all comes down to is the fact that the South American games is on balance a long way behind the best of Western Europe in terms of physical combat ant team organisation which is the result of better coaching and training.

Where the South Americans score is in their basic skills and natural ability to improvise, with the best Brazilians better off in this respect than Argentina. The fact is that Argentinians have always been amongst the best in the world, but their players have had to come and play in Europe to add the finishing touches to their education and reach the heights their talents deserved.

**One final point about Argentina's hopes needs to be stressed. Like Scotland, the Argentinians basically have good players, and with Kempes and Piazza in key positions they could blossom into a capable team. But they share with the Scots an unreliable quality in their temperament. Brought up to fight for their very existence in the backstreets of Glasgow and Buenos Aires, this comes out under pressure in their football.**

Menotti knows it, and unlike previous international managers for Argentina, he has been at some pains to act firmly with suspensions, when players have lost their heads in warm up matches, even when they have been extremely gifted men. In the World Cup proper, with all the world watching on TV, FIFA knows it is the shop window of the game and the referees will be under strict orders to deal with any sign of foul play.

### Pays for it

This possibility that they might lose a key man through a FIFA suspension applies most to Argentina and Italy, and here one must recognise that both France and Hungary have an edge. If there is going to be trouble, it is not likely that it will be them that starts it — or pays for it.

So here both France and Hungary have an edge, while Italy, with a strong accent of Italian blood in Argentina will be able to count on quite a lot of support from Argentinian spectators.

France are not an outstanding side and have got this far partly because they were in an easy group. They do have a sound defence that will not give much away and make them difficult to beat, yet while Michel Platini can be expected to slip through to chip in one goal from midfield in France's three games, I doubt if he can do it every time.

This lack of a scorer is the French weakness for while they have several useful wingers, they desperately need a goal-getting centre forward.

The choices for the number nine shirt are more the kind of spearhead that will get up in the goalmouth and nod balls down for others to shoot, and by chasing turn balls back across the goalmouth. How much they would be improved by a natural scorer like Just Fontaine of 1958 whose final stage tally is still an all time record.

Hungary are a different matter altogether for Lajos Baroti has created a new look Hungary that is better than anything they have had since the golden days of 1952-54. In the years between the Hungarians have produced all the talents but failed to match their skills with physical preparation, the ability to withstand aggression, and a will to win no matter what the odds.

This time Baroti has a sprinkling of experience and a band of young men who know what it is going to be like in the Mundial in June. More than that, if Tibor Nyilasi is perhaps the outstanding attacking player they have, not even he is indispensable as Hungary have several times shown when getting good results without him.

### Real wingers

To get this far, Baroti's men have broken the jinx that the Soviet Union holds over Hungary on football fields and survived a trip to La Paz where they beat Bolivia in conditions that even neighbouring Brazil and Argentina do not like. Fielding two real wingers, usually the experienced Laszlo Fazekas on the right and a real little aeroplane, Bela Varadi on the left, Baroti also uses another winger, Laszlo Pusztai when the veteran Fazekas tires or is ineffective and he has chipped in several key goals in the last year or so.

A nicely balanced defence, with most players in their middle twenties adds more ammunition to the view that Hungary could do well.

Perhaps the key figure will be centre forward Andreas Torocsik, and all-rounder who has both pace and skill, makes goals for others as well as taking them at club level. If he rises to the occasion then Hungary could well do something significant after a long period in the doldrums and having weighed up everything I have to go with my hunches and take Argentina and Hungary to qualify from group one.

Rene Houseman of Argentina

## GROUP TWO

**POLAND** **TUNISIA**
**W. GERMANY** **MEXICO**

JUNE 1: W. Germany v Poland ....Buenos Aires (River Plate)
JUNE 2: Tunisia v Mexico ....Rosario
JUNE 6: Mexico v W. Germany ....Cordoba
Poland v Tunisia ....Rosario
JUNE 10: Tunisia v W. Germany ....Cordoba
Mexico v Poland ....Rosario

# Easy pas and Wes

**THE way FIFA had things organised, with the West European teams largely "floating", awaiting the luck of the draw it is conceivable that Group Two of the World Cup final stages could have been just as strong as Group One turned out to be.**

At one stage, with West Germany 'seeded' and Poland joining them out of the goldfish bowls, it was quite conceivable that Scotland and another European side could have joined them, and that would have given a draw in which two groups were over strong, and the others too weak.

In the event it never materialised but I can imagine that a few hearts in Poland and West Germany were fluttering a bit before Tunisia and Mexico finally joined them.

So Group Two eventually emerged as a nicely balanced group with two of the stronger teams who ought to qualify, and two minnows who are in there with a chance if they are good enough. That is the way it ought to be.

## Shadow

Together with Brazil, the West Germans are the bookmakers favourites and if I cannot argue with that it has to be said that Helmut Schon has only the shadow of a team compared to the side that won the World Cup last time, and a very inferior team compared to the German super-side of 1971-72.

Having said that, let me put the bookmakers view in the right perspective by adding that as things stand with something like one hundred days still to go before the big kick off, in my view there are eight teams going to Argentina who have no chance at all of winning.

I would not go as far as to say that this view is shared by any great number of people but it seems clear from the editorial in a recent edition of FIFA news that there has not been widespread satisfaction about the draw. The response in the editorial from Zurich seems to lead straight to my conviction that the time has come for a really world-wide draw that would pair England for example with three teams like Gambia, Finland and South Korea. But that is another topic that can perhaps be taken up later.

For the moment let us take a closer look at Group Two.

There is no good reason that I can think of for supposing that Tunisia will fare any better than Zaire did in 1974 when I was impressed by the individual ability of some of their players, but overall they showed they lacked experience of really top class competition which whatever may be said in Brazil and Argentina, lies in western Europe.

Here one must sympathise with Tunisia who I understand have almost been on their knees to everyone in Western Europe they qualified. What they badly need is to play a few games against European opposition, whether at home or away, but preferably both.

Dhouib of Tunisia

## Money talks

In view of their links with France, it seems a disgrace that the FFF will not invite Tunisia to France, even if it meant putting the game on in some backwater like Limoges. The French are accommodating Iran, but sensibly not staging the game in Paris where the attendance would no doubt be dismal, but Iran have money to play with, and that seems to talk.

As far as I understand the situation, all the Tunisians have been able to do thus far is arrange a training camp in West Germany at their own expense, and they have been offered a game by a club at Bad Hennef, which most readers will not have heard of, and which will not give the Tunisians the experience they need whatever the result.

One odd little item of interest about Tunisia is that their captain, goalkeeper Sadok Attouga, is claimed to be the world's most experienced international player with 175 caps. By the time this gets into print it may be even further ahead of Bobby Moore and Franz Beckenbauer, for they can only have produced a figure like this if, like the Brazilians, they include all training games against club teams, provincial selections and touring clubs.

**In fact the whole of North Africa is a very popular winter training ground for clubs and**

# sage for Poland
# st Germany

## by ERIC BATTY

Rainer Bonhof of West Germany

**national teams from Eastern Europe who need somewhere with a good climate where they can prepare for the second half of their seasons away from the cold and ice-bound pitches of Russia, Czechoslovakia and the like.**

If Atiouga has played against all the foreign visitors for a Tunisia 'select' XI then this is how he has rattled up such a formidable array of 'caps'.

Midfield player Tarak has just been voted the African Footballer of the year which probably means that he has skill, but I remember being disappointed by the Zaire 'star' in 1974 who went to Germany with the same pedigree.

Although the Tunisians are amateurs according to their own lights, right winger Temime who is apparently a bit quick, is a professional, having been tempted by a lucrative offer to join a club in Saudi Arabia.

Before passing over Tunisia, it is worth reflecting that neither Morocco, who did better than expected in 1970, probably because the conditions were very much to their liking, nor Zaire, appear to have benefited from their participation in the last two World Cups since Africa was guaranteed one final place.

## Vastly different

With Tunisia clearly there only to make up the number, what can be said of Mexico?

What stands out is the obvious fact that Mexico at home and Mexico away are two vastly different propositions. In a recent training game they hammered the Grasshoppers Club of Zurich by 8-0 but the touring Swiss were out of season and are not a great side anyway.

At the start of Mexico's World Cup bid they were managed once more (for the 8th time I think) by Ignacio Trelles, but he fell foul of his critics and FA officials as he always does and was replaced by the manager of 1977 champions America FC of Mexico City, Jose Antonio Roca.

Senor Roca is much more fortunate than his Tunisian counterpart for he has been able to put together a European tour for the spring, though once more he will not be testing his squad against front rank Europeans but only the lesser fish.

Mexico of course have never qualified for the quarter finals in any competition except the 1970 series when they were at home. Even then they only just managed to scrape through with the aid of truly hysterical supporters.

They will do no better this time for I cannot see their teenage strikers Victor Rangel and Hugo Sanchez frightening experienced West German defenders like Berti Vogts and Sepp Maier. Mexico will probably have the satisfaction of beating Tunisia and then they will either stay on as spectators for the final stages or go home if the FA wants to save money.

**So Poland and West Germany should qualify from this group without too much trouble, but neither side can be said to be as good as they were four years ago and they both have their problems.**

## Top notch

Poland have it seems one useful team if they can resolve the difficulties they are having finding a really top notch in-form number 9. Andrzej Szarmach who did so well four years ago seems to me to have taken to the good life since he allegedly pocketed a large sum, albeit in Polish Zlotys, when transferring from Gornick Zabrze to Stal Mielec.

At all events, his goalscoring record in the Polish First Division hardly commends him, although it may well be that he is still the best man that manager Jacek Gmoch has at his disposal. Gmoch's problems are largely in the centre of his defence, in midfield and the central striker role.

In World Cup qualifying games, Gmoch turned out basically the same XI and qualified without a defeat, though he might have been fortunate in visiting Portugal when that country was having big political problems. But in friendly matches Gmoch has cast his net wide and given games to players that are only on the edge of the national team, and they have repeatedly been found wanting.

They can play attractive, attacking football consistently, but they cannot make it pay unless the team is very largely that which did so well in 1974, and when a change or two has been made for a friendly game the results have sometimes been almost disastrous as when they were thumped 4-1 by Russia who failed to qualify.

Gmoch appears to have done a good psychological job in rekindling the ambitions of his players but I doubt if they will be as eager and as sharp as they were in 1974.

This is largely the old and well known malaise of Eastern Europe where only the character and personal ambitions of the individual make one player stand out from the ruck of good, skilful players. Once that ambition has been satisfied it is difficult to rekindle, and none will be more difficult than the captain Kazimierz Deyna.

I have always had reservations about Deyna who is certainly lacking in terms of physical courage, even if he did do a good job of hiding it in 1974. One big thing that might have made all the difference to the Polish squad may be that they have been told, or are hoping, that after the World Cup they will be allowed to follow Robert Gadocha and Wlodzimierz Lubanski and join professional clubs in Western Europe.

This is just the kind of incentive that could fire the problem players, the key men upon whom Poland's hopes rest. In particular I would mention here, Jerzy Gorgon, the centre back; Deyna naturally, and the two top strikers Grzegorz Lato and Szarmach.

For all we know this decision may already have been taken and the news passed on to the players which would account for the big difference in the competitive and non-competitive performances.

## Envisage

If they have been promised the chance to go if they do well in Argentina, then I can even envisage Poland beating West Germany and finishing in top place in this group.

The possible Polish 'bonus' is hypothetical of course, but it is not beyond them to beat West Germany if Poland really turn out their best side fired by the will to win for West Germany have more problems than at any time since 1954.

One big factor in Helmut Schon's favour is that he has a lot of good players a a few great ones.

To begin with, Rainer Bonhof and Heinz Flohe have the ability and the experience that will enable them to take a firm grip on midfield whoever they are facing, but there are doubts about the quality of their current wingers Abramczyk and Rummenigge who are lacking in years and experience.

Then of course they are over dependent on Klaus Fischer when it comes to the business of putting the ball in the net — and if anything should happen to him, then the bookmakers will surely clean up.

**Summing up is easy in this group. West Germany and Poland should qualify and if they don't, they will have only themselves to blame.**

# WHO'S

**The third part of KEIR RADNEDGE'S series featuring men to watch for in the World Cup Finals. This month: L to P — Lato to Peters.**

### GRZEGORZ LATO (Poland)

**Now 28, the Stal Mielec inside forward has recently been chosen as Poland's footballer of the year, nearly four seasons after first making a reputation for himself by finishing top scorer in the 1974 Finals with seven goals. Yet Lato only owed his place in the first team to the serious injury Wlodek Lubanski suffered in the first qualifier against England. He didn't wait long to make his mark. In the return at Wembley it was Lato's quick sprint through the English defence which opened the way for club-mate Jan Domarski to score that all-important goal. Lato's goals had already that year taken Stal to the league title, and in the Finals he scored twice against Argentina and Haiti, then the second round winners against Sweden and Yugoslavia. Finally it was Lato who grabbed the late goal which earned Poland third place ahead of Brazil.**

### EMERSON LEAO (Brazil)

Acclaimed in Brazil as the best goalkeeper in South America, if not the world, Leao has come a long way from the somewhat unsure World Cup debutant of 1974. Not tall, but exceptionally strongly-built and with remarkable reflexes, the 28-year-old Palmeiras star has played well over 60 times for Brazil and become their most established goalkeeper since Gilmar in 1958-62. It was Leao who saved Brazil from humiliation in their 0-0 draw away to Colombia in the qualifiers, and several agents wanted to sell him to Spanish clubs. Leao however turned down their blandishments. In the 1974 Finals he returned home one of the few players to escape criticism, though if he has a weakness it is in not coming off his line fast enough — a typical product of the different styles of play between South America and Brazil.

### WLODZIMIERZ LUBANSKI (Poland)

*When a serious injury suffered in the 1974 qualifiers put Lubanski out of soccer for a year, it seemed the 31-year-old with a record 46 goals in a record 64 internationals had missed his last chance of gracing the World Cup Finals. It was a sad prospect for the Gornik forward who had done more than anyone to put the Poles on the right road, catching out Bobby Moore to race away for the second goal in the Katowice match the Poles won 2-0. Minutes later he was bundled down by Roy McFarland, and it seemed his career was over when the thigh injury failed to respond to treatment. The Polish FA certainly thought he was finished, allowing him to move to Lokeren in Belgium. But his recovery was so dramatic – he led unknown Lokeren into the UEFA Cup – that manager Jacek Gmoch recalled him for several of the World Cup qualifiers. He has already been named in a provisional squad for the finals, despite the opposition of several team-mates, envious of his Lokeren contract.*

### SEPP MAIER (West Germany)

An outstanding personality and a man who responds to the big occasions, Maier recently played his 400th consecutive league and cup game in the Bayern goal! One of the world's best goalkeepers, Maier's World Cup start was in 1966, when he was third in line in the West German squad which came to England. He didn't get a game, but played in 1970, though injury kept him out of the third-place match against Uruguay. Since then Maier has gone on to win 80 caps, and was a key figure in Bayern's Champions' Cup hat-trick. More than that, he astonished even his team-mates with the style and class of important saves in the 1974 World Cup against Poland and Holland. Maier could have been an outstanding tennis player had it not been for football. As it is he stands amid an elite trio — only he, Beckenbauer and Gerd Müller can boast winners' medals in the World Cup, world club cup, Champions' Cup, Cup-winners' Cup and West German league and cup. Now 33.

### FRANCISCO MARINHO (Brazil)

Without doubt the most exciting left back in the world in full flight, but whether Brazil manager Claudio Coutinho will consider him reliable enough for his squad is another matter entirely. The Fluminense 26-year-old has been in and out of Brazil's squad over the past couple of years, and at the moment remains sadly somewhat out of favour. Injury has upset him in recent months, and so did the decision by ex-Brazil manager Oswaldo Brandao to drop him early in the qualifying tournament because some of the other defenders objected to his raids upfield. Marinho was a star in the 1974 Finals when his close control and explosive shooting made his reputation, and he nearly joined Schalke a year later. The deal fell through after a referendum among the fans, who objected to the proposed £300,000 fee. Marinho demonstrated how his introduction can galvanise a side when he appeared as a substitute against England in the American Bicentennial tournament in the spring of 1976.

### DON MASSON (Scotland)

October 1977 brought a rapid turnaround in the career of this 32-year-old midfielder. First he was chosen by Ally MacLeod to captain Scotland in the absence of midfield partner Bruce Rioch — and the 2-0 win of which he made sure with a late penalty saw Wales beaten and Scotland through to Argentina. Then, a couple of weeks later he was transferred from London club Queen's Park Rangers to Derby in exchange for the Welsh international Leighton James. QPR had decided to rebuild and there was no place in new manager Frank Sibley's plans for the veteran who had joined them from Notts County a couple of years previously for £100,000. Yet is was Masson's subtle promptings which had played a large part in QPR finishing runner-up to Liverpool in the league in 1976, and which helped Scotland into the World Cup Finals.

### DANNY McGRAIN (Scotland)

*At 27, the Celtic full back is not just one of Scotland's best, but one of the most reliable in Europe. However the past few months have not been happy ones for McGrain in his fight to make Scotland's Argentina squad. A mysterious ankle injury suffered early in the season kept him on the sidelines for four months, then McGrain was upset when news leaked out that he is diabetic – a private discovery made immediately after the 1974 World Cup Finals. McGrain feared that any injury troubles would be associated by some outsiders with his complaint. At the start of February McGrain travelled to London hoping for the all-clear to return to training. Scotland could certainly do with him to prop up their defence. McGrain began his career as a wing half and has done well to establish himself so clearly despite suffering a fractured skull in a game with Falkirk in 1972. It was only late that year that McGrain became a regular first-teamer with Celtic. He has played in 40 internationals.*

### MIGUELI (Spain)

Just 26 now, Miguel Bernardo Bianqueti — to give him his full name — hails from the North African Spanish enclave of Ceuta — like Real Madrid skipper Pirri, his central defensive partner with Spain. Nicknamed Tarzan because of his tremendous physique, Migueli first caught the attention of several big clubs while playing for second division Cadiz. Real Madrid turned him down after a trial, but Barcelona weren't so hasty, and after barely a dozen senior games and despite the complications created by his national service, he was called into Spain's senior squad. Considered one of Europe's most dependable stoppers, Migueli overcame a ligament injury in double-quick time to blot out

# WHO

## Argentina '78

dangerous Rumanian striker Dudu Georgescu in Spain's 2-0 World Cup win last October.

**JOHAN NEESKENS (Holland)**

**A serious knee injury suffered just before Christmas in a match at Burgos had alarm bells ringing throughout Holland — with Johan Cruyff pulling out of the World Cup, they could hardly afford to lose his long-time friend as well. Happily Neeskens made a speedy recovery, and manager Ernst Happel desperately hopes he'll soon be back in the form which made him one of the world's outstanding midfielder dynamos in the 1974 Finals. His strength proved an ideal foil for the wiles of Cruyff then, though their partnership hasn't met with the same runaway success at Barcelona — whom Neeskens joined on Cruyff's recommendation for £400,000 after the World Cup. At first Neeskens found it difficult to settle in Spain. The fans resented him because he had replaced the popular Peruvian, Hugo Sotil, and referees — particularly in away matches — constantly penalised him in the tackle. The man who so coolly transformed that penalty in the first minute of the 1974 Final even lost his touch with spot kicks! Before his injury however he had demonstrated his true ability in Spain and his right to be considered among the world's best players.**

Johan Neeskens of Holland

**TIBOR NYILASI (Hungary)**

Ferencvaros' midfielder could prove Hungary's key man in Argentina — so manager Lajos Baroti is hoping that at last he has come through all the trials of the past couple of years. In the spring of 1976 Nyilasi emerged as one of the most promising players in Europe when his midfield skills inspired Hungary to a 4-3 aggregate win over England in the quarter finals of the under-23 championship. The Hungarians went on to lose 3-2 overall to Russia in the final, and that was when 24-year-old Nyilasi's troubles began. A little later he and several club-mates were banned from travelling abroad for a year after a customs incident, then he suffered a fractured skull after a clash of heads in a game. He had barely recovered from that when he went down with appendicitis. He recovered in time to return for Hungary's 6-0 World Cup win over Bolivia, and all Hungary hopes he now stays clear of any more trouble.

**BJORN NORDQVIST (Sweden)**

*In the next month or two Sweden's 35-year-old centre back is probably going to top Bobby Moore's record 108 international appearances, having reached three figures against Denmark last autumn. Yet it took Nordqvist three years to assert his right to a place in Sweden's team after he made his international debut in August 1963, in a game against Finland. Nordqvist captained Sweden in the 1970 Finals, and then accepted an offer to turn full-time professional in Holland with PSV Eindhoven. He played again in the 1974 Finals, then surprisingly returned home in the summer of 1975, when PSV, champions for the first time in 12 years, stood on the threshold of European glory. Nordqvist's decision to sign for IFK Göteborg is more understandable however, if you know that the club also found him a job with Volvo which would assure his future. Nordqvist began his career with Norrköping.*

**LUIZ PEREIRA (Brazil)**

Luiz to the Brazilians, Luis to the Spaniards for whom he has proved a brilliant sweeper with Atletico Madrid, Pereira is another player whose World Cup appearance remains in doubt until the last few weeks. Brazil wanted him to join their squad in the middle of March, but Atletico clearly couldn't agree while they remained in the Champions' Cup and the Spanish Cup and weren't in too healthy a position in the league. Brazil's CBD sent top officials Athos Pimenthal and Mario Trabaglini to negotiate with Atletico, but they returned to Rio despondent after learning that May is the earliest he will be available. Pereira joined Atletico from Palmeiras after being Brazil's defensive mainstay in the 1974 World Cup. He returned home last summer to help Brazil qualify for Argentina, but his only weakness is a hasty temper. Sent off in the 1974 finals after a clash with Johan Neeskens, he has been dismissed in both league and Champions' Cup this season.

**JAN PETERS (Holland)**

**Peters exploded into international football when, last spring, at 23, he scored two fine goals to defeat England at Wembley. But long before that he had attracted scouts from all over Europe to watch him playing with small-town NEC Nijmegen. Nicknamed the 'second Cruyff,' his exploits at Wembley drew offers from Spain and West Germany, but surprisingly it was ambitious Dutch club, AZ '67 Alkmaar who finally got him. Three years before, a deal with Feyenoord had fallen through because a player involved in a proposed part-exchange deal didn't want to leave; a year later Ajax agreed a £100,000 fee but didn't go through with the deal after their doctors advised that Peters might soon be having problems from an old knee injury. Ajax's manager then was Hans Kraay, the man who eventually signed him for Alkmaar! Ironically Peters scored twice in Amsterdam against Ajax last summer in virtually his first game for Alkmaar. Since then, however, his form has suffered from the move and though a key member of Holland's squad, he is having to fight to regain his first-team place.**

**NEXT MONTH**

**PIAZZA TO ZOFF**

# World Cup history-part one-1930-50...

# Rimet's n Hirschmar

COMPILED BY
Keir Radnedge

**CONFUSION remains about who first produced the idea which later gave birth to the World Cup.**

Was it Jules Rimet, the Frenchman who was FIFA president for so long, and whose name was appended to the original trophy now in the permanent possession of Brazil?

Or was it the Dutch banker, C. A. W. Hirschman, one of the leading lights behind the setting-up of the Federation Internationale de Football Associations?

No doubt we and history will settle for six of one and half a dozen of the other. Though it is Rimet's name which lives on, in fact Hirschman was the moving spirit who brought together representatives from Belgium, Denmark, France, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and, of course, Holland on May 21, 1904, for the meeting which launched the United Nations Organisation of football.

They immediately claimed sole right to organise a world championship. But it wasn't until after the first world war and a lot of internal squabbling that the first World Cup went ahead. Indeed, after serious consideration was first given to the idea in 1920, it wasn't until the FIFA Congress at Barcelona in 1929 that Uruguay were confirmed as organisers.

The Uruguayans seemed to have everything going their way. They had dominated the 1924 and 1928 Olympic tournaments, and had offered to pay all expenses of World Cup entrants.

Sadly, the Europeans who had given birth to the idea of a World Cup, were far from enthusiastic about taking part on the far side of the Atlantic.

There was no Concorde. Travel was by sea, and it was only with the greatest reluctance that four European nations travelled. France were bludgeoned into going by Rimet, Belgium by their persuasive FA president Rodolphe Seeldrayers; Rumania competed only thanks to the personal intervention of King Carol, who promised to make up to the players' employers (mainly British) any losses incurred while the team were away. Yugoslavia completed the quartet.

But even had a stronger nation gone, say Austria or Italy, it's unlikely they would have been much more effective in preventing a repeat of the 1928 Olympic final — Uruguay against Argentina.

Instead of the grand single opening match nowadays, the World Cup started with two games — France beating Mexico 4-1, and a United States team heavily relying on emigré Scots, beating Belgium 3-0.

Only one team could qualify for the semi-finals from each of the four groups, and those four were Argentina, Yugoslavia, United States and Uruguay. Argentina, Uruguay's deadly rivals, were the only team to have to qualify from a froup of four teams — all the others contained three . . .

Monti scored Argentina's first in the 6-1 semi-final win over the United States, while Uruguay — thanks to a hat-trick from Spanish-born forward Pedro Cea — beat Yugoslavia by the same margin after coming from a goal down.

The final saw the River Plate rivals thus joined again in battle. Surprisingly, the game was played in a reasonable spirit. In Buenos Aires a crowd of 30,000 gathered to listen to a commentary relayed over loudspeakers. As soon as Pablo Dorado opened the scoring the crowd began to melt away, only to regroup after Carlos Peucelle equalised, when Jose Nasazzi, the Uruguayan captain, miscued a clearance.

Nasazzi was to blame again before half-time. He stopped and appealed to Belgian referee John Langenus for offside at Guillermo Stabile went clear. Langenus's only response was to point to the centre as Stabile put the Argentines 2-1 ahead.

The joy in Buenos Aires was short-lived. In the second half Uruguay hit back. Cea, Santos Iriarte and one-armed centre-forward Hector Castro turned the score around to 4-2 — Uruguay were the first world champions!

**URUGUAY:** Ballesteros — Nasazzi, Mascheroni — Andrade, Fernandez, Cestido — Dorado, Scarone, Castro, Cea, Iriarte.

**ARGENTINA:** Bossisio — Della Torre, Paternoster — Juan Evaristo, Monti, Suarez — Peucelle, Varallo, Stabile, Ferreira, Mario Evaristo.

## 1934 — ITALY

**WHETHER it is a true story, or merely apochryphal, it deserves to be told here as the key to all that happened when Mussolini's Italy staged the 1934 Finals.**

"General Vaccaro," Mussolini is said to have addressed the head of the Olympic Committee, "Italy must win the World Cup."

"We'll do everything possible, Duce," replied Vaccaro.

"General," repeated Mussolini, "I don't think you quite understood me. I said Italy MUST win the World Cup."

And Italy did just that — with the aid of three Argentines, Monti, and wingers Enrico Guaita and Raimundo Orsi. Then, as now, their team was based on Juventus. But they also had at their head one of the greatest of managers in Vittorio Pozzo.

Pozzo was the first manager to think deeply about how to bring the best out of his players by understanding them as men. If two players had scrapped in a league match he would put them together as room mates when the Italian team went into retiro.

At the start of the finals he dropped Giampiero Combi, the experienced goalkeeper who had been first choice for almost a decade. He preferred Carlo Ceresoli. But in a training accident, Ceresoli broke a finger. Pozzo went up to Combi, and said simply: "Are you ready, I need you." Combi, unlike many players today, had refused to sulk and stepped straight back into the team.

Italy were fortunate in that Uruguay, angry at the European semi-boycott of 1930, stay at home; also that Argentina, fearful of losi any more players to the big Italian sides, se a weakened team who were beaten 3-2 their opening match by Sweden.

The finals were played on a knock-out ba and Argentina weren't the only Sou Americans to have made a long journey f one game. Brazil lost 3-1 to Spain aft Waldemar de Brito, later the man wh 'discovered' Pele, missed a penalty.

Spain met Italy in the quarter finals. T outcome was explosive. After extra time t teams were locked at 1-1, but Spain's her the great goalkeeper Ricardo Zamora, b been so badly knocked about by the despera Italian forwards he had to miss the repla Giuseppe Mezza, one of Italy's great pre-w heroes, scored the only goal.

The semi-finals matched Italy with Austri whose manager, Hugo Meisl completed th great 1930s triumvirate along with Pozzo an Herbert Chapman. The Austrians we typified by their skilful and brilliant cent forward Matthias Sindelar. But they were little too fragile. They'd beaten Italy 4-2 Turin in the spring, but Pozzo, preparing h team at Lake Maggiore, was confide because though "they are better footballer we are the stronger men."

Guaita's goal was enough, whil Czechoslovakia destroyed Nazi hopes of a Axis final by defeating Germany 3-1 in th other semi-final But was it mere coincidenc that all Germany's games were refereed b Italians?

Mussolini was among the 25,000 in th Stadio Flaminio to see Italy's triumph. Bu the Italian players thought that, havin beaten Austria, they had done all the hard work.

The atmosphere around Il Duce when Antonin Puc put the Czechs ahead in the 64th minute can be imagined!

Fortunately for Pozzo, with four minutes left, Orsi squeezed a fluke of a shot in for the equaliser, and the tiring centre forward, Angelo Schiavio got the winner in extra time.

**ITALY:** Combi — Monzeglio, Allemandi — Ferraris IV, Monti, Bertolini — Guaita, Meazza, Schiavio, Ferrari, Orsi.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA:** Planicka — Zenisek, Ctyrocky — Kostalek, Cambal, Krcil — Junek, Svobada, Sobotka, Nejedly, Puc.

Third place: Germany 3, Austria 2.

## 1938 — FRANCE

**LEONIDAS DA SILVA is now 63. He lives in Sao Paolo, and runs a furniture store. It's hard to believe now that this moustachioed man, going thin on top was once to soccer what Pele would become. He was the original 'black**

# World Cup history-part one-1930-50...

**diamond" — and the man who put Brazil on the World Cup map.**

Leonidas had been smothered in the Brazilian team beaten in the first round in 1934. But he returned in 1938 as the most outstanding South American footballer of his time. And he started the tournament with an extraordinary goal in an extraordinary match.

Despite four goals from Ernst Willimowski, Poland lost 6-5 to Brazil in extra time — and Leonidas scored one of those goals with only one boot. As the the other boot came off in the clawing mud, so a colleague put a pass clear through the Polish defence. Leonidas raced to it, beat one defender then shot post the goalkeeper.

The quarter final with Czechoslovakia was not such fun. The Brazilians won 2-1 in a replay after a battle of a first game had been drawn 1-1. Three players were sent off and Czech star Oldrich Nejedly suffered a broken leg.

Their chances of making up for their 1934 defeat were dead.

The two-leg tussle with the Czechs proved too much for the Brazilians. Some 48 hours later they had to face Italy in Marseille. This was a rebuilt Italian side. Only inside forwards Meazza and Ferrari remained from

There were no official World Cup footballs in 1930, but there are now!

# ame lives on but was the spirit

1934. But it was possibly a better team. This time the referees and the crowds were not on their side.

But a little luck was. They had four days' rest before their semi-final. The Brazilians had barely two, and one of those was spent in a tiresome journey from Bordeaux to Marseille. The story goes that Brazil were so confident of reaching the final they rested Leonidas. In fact, the long bus trip aggravated an old injury and he just wasn't fit enough.

Italy won 2-1, and went on to beat Hungary comparatively easily, 4-2, in the final. Gino Colaussi and Giulio Piola hit two each — Titkos and Sarosi replied, and Pozzo had done it again.

**ITALY:** Olivieri — Foni, Rava — Serantoni, Andreolo, Locatelli — Biavati, Meazza, Piola, Ferrari, Colaussi.
**HUNGARY:** Szabo — Polgar, Biro — Szalay, Szucs, Lazar — Sas, Vincze, Sarosi, Szengeller, Titkos.

Third place: Brazil 4, Sweden 2.

## 1950 — BRAZIL

**IF Leonidas in 1938 had heralded the Brazilian domination of the World Cup in the post-war years, it was a fact not appreciated in 1950 when the Brazilians, in their own back yard, allowed themselves to be beaten in the last game when a draw would have been enough for the crown.**

The 1950 competition was notable for the fact that England took part, the British associations having rejoined FIFA, and notable too for the never-to-be-forgotten 1-0 defeat by the United States.

But the 1950 competition saw another failure — that of Italy. Little more than a year before, it had seemed the Italians would present a stern defence with a fine team based on Torino. But in May 1949, returning from a friendly in Lisbon, the plane crashed and the Torino first-team squad was wiped out. Italy lost 10 internationals, the backbone of their team.

Consequently they failed even to progress into the second round. The format was altered again. To obviate the sacrifice of teams travelling halfway round the world for one game, four first round groups were created. But withdrawals — such as that of Scotland — played havoc with the organisation, and Uruguay — back for the first time since winning in 1930 — had only to beat Bolivia 8-0 to reach the second round in which the four group winners played off for the title.

In Zizinho, Ademir and Jair the Brazilians boasted a marvellous inside forward trio. They appeared unstoppable — except in two vital matches. In group one they beat Mexico 4-0, were surprisingly held 2-2 by Switzerland, then beat Yugoslavia 2-0. In the final group they thrashed Sweden 7-1 and Spain 6-1 before facing Uruguay.

The Swedes, who beat Italy 3-2, had done remarkably considering that their best players had been spirited away to Italy after the 1948 Olympics. Spain were delighted too, to have reached the last four—the decisive win being 1-0 against England thanks to a header from the Bilbao centre forward Telmo Zarra.

In fact, the Spanish very nearly ruined it all for Uruguay too. In Sao Paulo the led 2-1 at half-time, and only a late goal from Uruguayan skipper and centre half Obdulio Varela saved the day. It was because of that draw that, when Brazil and Uruguay met in the last match, the Brazilians needed only to draw to win the World Cup.

Starting like worthy champions, they were soon a goal ahead through Friaca. That was early into the second half. Then, in the 65th minute, Varela sent Alcides Ghiggia past Bigode, and Juan Schiaffino hit in his cross at the near post.

With 10 minutes to go Ghiggia struck again. A quick one-two with Julio Perez and, as Barbosa in goal waited for the cross, Ghiggia smashed the ball between goalkeeper and near post. Uruguay had done it again!

**URUGUAY:** Maspoli — N. Gonzalez, Tejera — Gambetta, Varela, Andrade — Ghiggia, Perez, Miguez, Schiaffino, Moran.
**BRAZIL:** Barbosa — Augusto, Juvenal — Bauer, Danilo, Bigode — Friaca, Zizinho, Ademir, Jair, Chico.

Third place: Sweden 2 point (Spain one).

# Danes say 'yes' to pro soccer

AS I predicted in these pages last month, the Dansk Boldspil Union voted by 100 votes to 10 at the end of February to end the amateur tradition in Denmark (writes Keir Radnedge).

The vote at an ordinary general meeting held in Vejle, was hardly surprising — the decision to switch to what the officials insist on calling 'non-amateur' soccer had been agreed in principle last autumn.

Already 700 part-time professional contracts have been signed with players, as well as sponsorship contracts with major companies. The only fly in the ointment is criticism of the fact that some teams will be advertising alcoholic drinks — and this dispute may have to be settled in the civil courts.

## Specifically

Also as I predicted last month, the Danes are looking abroad, specifically to England, for some of their new recruits. Third division Herning have already offered a £24,000 player-manager contract to 36-year-old former England World Cup captain Bobby Moore.

He retired last April after a distinguished career with West Ham, winding up at Fulham, but had been unsuccessful in seeking a managerial vacancy. Hernings attendances averaged 3,000 last year, but they are now to be sponsored by a petrol firm to the tune of £50,000 a year.

The job wouldn't be too taxing for Moore. He wouldn't need to travel out to Denmark until Thursday each week, returning to London after the weekend matches.

One of the problems affecting Danish football in the past is that so many clubs are concentrated in and around Copenhagen. For example, in 1976 there were seven Copenhagen teams in the 16-club first division — though Fremad and Vanlose were relegated at the season's end.

## Establish

It may well be that professionalism will sort out the sheep from the goats in the next few seasons, and a couple of clubs establish themselves as top dogs.

The Copenhagen concentration has so far prevented the emergence of a couple of outstanding sides, and hasn't helped the fight to improve low attendances. While the changes in the new season beginning in April should encourage more fans initially, it remains to be seen whether the clubs will be able to maintain the expected resurgence of interest.

So where did the impetus for non-amateur soccer begin?

For several years some of the senior clubs had been pushing for the opportunity to introduce major sponsorship and urging the DBU to allow foreign-based professionals into the national team.

This was finally effected two years ago and from then on it was a comparatively short battle before the DBU was ready to allow a form of paid football at home.

At first many clubs and officials were opposed. What finally shocked them into agreement was a proposal by former international centre forward Harald Nielsen and some business colleagues to launch a professional league this year outside the jurisdiction of the DBU (A sort of soccer Kerry Packer).

Thus galvanised into action, the clubs voted by a large majority last October to introduce non-amateur soccer for the top three divisions. Carlsberg's promised sponsorship of course helped persuade some of the doubters, even though there will be teething troubles.

## Problem

For example, there is no limit in Denmark on the number of foreign players any team may field — and though this suits the recent Common Market ruling, it could prove a problem if Swedes, Norwegians and Finns in particular are attracted down to Copenhagen. Also, there has been no agreement on a transfer system; there is a proposal that in future a foreign club must pay £1,500 to sign a Danish player, and one Danish club must pay another a mere £500 for a domestic contract.

But it's not hard to foresee that this is opening the way for illegal inducements and under-the-counter payments, and the Danes may have to think again pretty soon.

## Finance

The other problem also concerns finance. So far most Danish clubs have run extremely large youth sections and kept solvent thanks to large cash grants from local government.

As soon as the proposals to introduce limited professionalism became known, many clubs were upset to receive a warning that this could mean they would forfeit their grants. The solution has been for the clubs to split into two sections — a commercial section, and a youth section. Local authority money will be channelled only into the youth sections.

## Outstanding

An entertainment tax could also be a problem.

Denmark has produced many outstanding players over the years. From the Middleboe brothers at the start of the century to Pol Petersen, who played right back for FIFA against the British associations in 1947, to John and Karl Hansen, Carl Praest and Leschly Sorensen, Harald Nielsen, and Ole Madsen, who played for a while with Sparta Rotterdam; in the seventies we have seen Allan Simonsen, Henning Jensen, Per Roentved as well as John Hansen, who won Champions' Cup medals with Bayern Munich.

## Most-capped

Madsen, in fact, played 100 times for Denmark at amateur and professional level, but the most-capped top-grade player remains Bent Hansen (BK1903) who won 59 caps in the late 1950s and early 60s. Next comes forward Henning Enoksen (Vejle/Aarhus) with 54, gained at about the same time.

The Danes will no doubt go on producing a fine crop of new players. But it will be interesting to see whether non-amateur soccer can help re-establish international respectability. It should at least put an end to the kind of erratic success such as that of Hvidovre, who went from the fourth division to Europe in four seasons some years ago.

There is no problem with stadia. The Idraetspark in Copenhagen is more than big enough, with a capacity of 50,000 (36,000 seated). And Aarhus (24,000), Aalborg (22,000) and Odense (20,000) have not always reached their limits for European ties.

Football in Denmark is receiving a shot in the arm. Here's hoping they make the best of it!

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# WORLD CUP C

## Men in the Middle

**WITH NINE of the men who officiated in West Germany in 1974 there were no surprises in the list of 32 referees for the World Cup Finals, writes KEIR RADNEDGE).**

The final choice, made by the refereeing commission of FIFA under the chairmanship of UEFA president Artemio Franchi came up with the expected names — even if there were a couple of controversial choices.

Spain's Angel Franco Martinez, for example, had a poor game shortly before the list was announced, in Italy's 2-2 draw with France in Naples. And at virtually the same time the list was made public, Alfonso Gonzalez Archundia achieved the distinction of showing the red card to 26 people in a Mexican match and still completing the game!

To clarify the matter, only five were players, the rest coaches and substitutes.

Among the reserves is the Austrian Franz Wöhrer, who became the youngest-ever FIFA referee when first added to the international panel 11 years ago, at 28. Wöhrer's most recent big match was the West Germany-England international after which he was criticised by the English for letting Rainer Bonhof take the quick free kick which beat Ray Clemence for the winner.

As Wöhrer must have told himself afterwards, the England defence only paid the penalty for not getting themselves back the regulation 10 yards.

One interesting comment on refereeing from the Peruvian Edson Perez. Though not nominated himself he criticised the fact that only six South/Central Americans had been named. "South American referees are better than the Europeans" he said. It'll be interesting to see whether his views stand the acid test.

The list: Angel Coerezza (Argentina), Gebreyesus Tesfaye (Ethiopia), Francis Rion (Belgium), Arnaldo Coelho (Brazil), Juan Silvagno (Chile), Adolf Prokop (East Germany), Ferdinand Biwersi (West Germany), Pat Partridge (England).

Robert Wurtz (France), Jafar Namdar (Iran), Abraham Klein (Israel), Sergio Gonella (Italy), Dusan Maksimovic (Yugoslavia), Werner Winsemann (Canada), Alfonso Gonzalez Archundia (Mexico), Charles Corver (Holland), Erich Linemayr (Austria), Cesar Orozco (Peru), Alojzy Jarguz (Poland), Antonio Garrido (Portugal), Nicolae Rainea (Rumania), John Gordon (Scotland), Ulf Ericsson (Sweden), Jean Dubach (Switzerland), Youssou N'Diaye (Senegal), Angel Franco Martinez (Spain), Farouk Bouzo (Syria), Hedi Seoudi (Tunisia), Anatoli Ivanov (Russia, Karoly Palotai (Hungary), Ramon Barreto Ruiz (Uruguay), Clive Thomas (Wales).

Linesmen: Miguel Angel Comesana, Arturo Ithurralde, Luis Pestarino (all Argentina).

Reserves: Alfred Delcourt (Belgium), Romualdo Arppi Filho (Brazil), Michel Kitabdjian (France), Heinz Aldinger (West Germany), Alberto Michelotti (Italy), Franz Wöhrer (Austria).

England captain Emlyn Hughes and West German counterpart Berti Vogts exchange pennants before the international in Munich watched by Austrian referee Franz Wöhrer, who is a World Cup reserve.

## ARGENTINA

**"THERE'S no crisis," according to Cesar Menotti, but you could forgive the outside world for believing that the embattled Argentine boss is whistling into the wind.**

Besel by all manner of personnel problems, the general image of Argentina as World Cup organisers took a knock when part of the players' tunnel in the new Mar del Plata stadium collapsed. No one was hurt, but ironically at about the same time World Cup chief General Mer was brazenly announcing that work was well up to schedule.

Menotti's problems are well-known, but perhaps we should just briefly recapitulate. Captain and left-back Jorge Carrascosa walked out, and goalkeeper Hugo Gatti has been kicked out. The FA then dealt Menotti another blow with heavy suspensions on midfielders Ruben Galvan and Omar Larrosa of Independiente for their attack on a referee in the championship play-off with Talleres Cordoba.

The Argentine FA rewrote their own rules so the two could after all line up in the World Cup, and six members of the disciplinary committee promptly quit in protest!

Meanwhile Racing of Buenos Aires were trying to get Ricardo Villa, the gifted midfielder, dropped from the World Cup squad because they desperately needed the £500,000 U.S. offer from Houston to prevent the club going bust!

On top of that Boca Juniors refused to renew the contract of defender Alberto Jorge Tarantini, and for several weeks it wasn't clear whether, without a club, he could continue in the World Cup squad. He has since been given permission to do so.

As if that wasn't enough Menotti discovered that no official written approaches had been made to Saint-Etienne, Real Madrid and Valencia for the early return home of Osvaldo Piazza, Quique Wolff and Mario Kempes.

Piazza, for one, had worked hard to try to induce his club to let him return to Argentina early, but without success and it seems Menotti has now decided to do without both Piazza and Wolff. There's been no official announcement, but the call-up of Talleres centre back Luis Adolfo Galvan seems to say it all.

Finally Menotti was disappointed when Brazil refused to play the two Copa Roca games due for March, because the AFA said that the Mar del Plata and River Plate World Cup stadia were not yet ready, and Brazil refused to play in Boca Juniors' Bombonera.

Menotti has worked his men hard in training, but that wan't obvious to the 50,000 fans who packed the old General San Martin stadium in Mar del Plata to see a 0-0 draw against Uruguay at the start of March.

# UNTDOWN

## WORLD SOCCER'S monthly round-up of the 16 finalists

Argentina '78

## AUSTRIA

**UNBEATEN over 13 games in two years, the Austrians kept the run going with a 1-1 draw against Greece in Athens.**

Before 12,000 fans Greece went ahead through Galokos in the 42nd minute, with the inevitable Hans Krankl equalising on the hour. The Austrians should have had a penalty later, but manager Helmut Senekowitsch wasn't unhappy at the result.

Greece: Kakaris — Kirastas, Iossifidis, Firos, Ravussis — Anastasiadis (Papaioannou 11, 81), Damanakis, Papaioannou (Ghessios 72) — Kalambakas (Semerzidis 60), Galakos, Mavfos.

Austria: Baumgartner (F. Koncilia 54) — Strasser, Pentze, Persidis, Sara — Hapitz, Oberacher, Prohaska — Riedl, Krankl, Weber.

Austria gave a first cap to FK Austria goalkeeper Hubert Baumgartner but overshadowing the game was the disappointment at the poor response in league attendances to World Cup qualification.

Many first division gates struggle to reach four figures and the outlook is even bleaker with several senior players mulling over transfers abroad after the finals.

Krankl, who with four goals in successive wins with Rapid over 1st FC Vienna and Admira continues to look the only striker of class, is the subject of a possible £300,000 offer from Standard Liege, while Italy's Perugia have also made inquiries.

Defender Bruno Pezzey wants to goa abroad after the finals, while even the management team's future is uncertain. Betis of Spain are interested in Senekowitsch, who once played for them, and Hamburg have made no secret of their hopes of persuading overlord Max Merkel back to West Germany.

There is some good news. A Vienna television dealer has added an extra £20 to the price of each set. The money will go towards the FA's World Cup fund!

## BRAZIL

**NO Luiz Pereira and no Francisco Marinho — these were the most notable decisions of manager Claudio Coutinho in naming his squad of 21 for the World Cup Finals.**

After CBD officials Mario Trabalini and Athos Pimental had spent several days in Madrid talking to Atletico officials, they returned with nothing more hopeful than that Pereira, the big black sweeper, would be free after the first week in May to join the World Cup effort.

At the same time a big anti-Pereira campaign was building up in the Press, and Coutinho has included him and the controversial blond left-back only in the back-up squad of 26 who stand by in case of injuries.

The 21 are: **Goalkeepers** — Leao, Carlos. **Defenders:** Toninho, Oscar, Amaral, Edinho, Ze Maria, Abel, Polozi, Rodrigues Neto. **Midfield:** Toninho Cerezo, Batista, Rivelino. **Forwards:** Tarcinho, Zico, Reinaldo, Gil, Jorge Mendonca, Nunes, Dirceu, Romeu.

The 22nd player will probably be Cruzeiro goalkeeper Raul, to be added to the squad after the tour of Europe which begins in Paris against France on April 1.

Other games: April 5 v W. Germany (Hamburg); 10 v S. Arabia (Jedda); 13 v Internazionale (Milan); 19 v England (Wembley). A game with Atletico Madrid, set for April 7 in Madrid, has been called off.

Also off are the two Copa Roca games against Argentina. Coutinho refused to play them because he wanted match experience only in the World Cup stadia Brazil will use — at Mar del Plata or the River Plate ground. The Argentines said they weren't ready, and Coutinho wasn't happy about playing in La Bombonera. Goalkeeper Raul had been pelted with marbles there during the South American club cup final against Boca Juniors.

One man not in the squad, but who will be in Argentina for the finals, is Atletico Madrid's Joao Leivinha. He will be going as a television commentator, and there is no chance of him making the same mistake as Argentina midfielder Juan Jose Lopez in a recent radio discussion.

Lopez of River Plate, told millions of listeners that he greatly admired Coutinho, particularly remembering him as a player alongside Pele with Santos.

"That's very nice of you," replied Coutinho over the air when Lopez had finished — "but I'm afraid that was a different Coutinho!"

Brazil, incidentally, were recently tipped as World Cup winners by European footballer of the year Allan Simonsen.

## FRANCE

A SPECIAL reception given by President Giscard d'Estaing was attended by most of France's World Cup squad — except Dominique Rocheteau, injured two days before in Saint-Etienne's game against Rouen.

But several other injury victims were there, including goalkeeper Dominique Baratelli, forward Olivier Rouyer, and midfielder Dominique Bathenay.

France are hoping to fly out to Buenos Aires in Concorde, but manager Michel Hidalgo's preparations have been badly hit by the knee injury Bathenay suffered in training a day or two after the 2-2 draw with Italy.

Bathenay is out for two months, but should be fit for the finals to partner Italy-bound Michel Platini, who has been one of the few fixtures of Hidalgo's reign.

Hidalgo succeeded Stefan Kovacs at the start of 1976, and his first match was a 2-2 draw with Czechoslovakia in Paris. Altogether his record read — before the recent friendly with Portugal — played 14, won 5, drawn 6, lost 3 — goals for 21, against 12.

Hidalgo has lately been grateful for the experience of Nantes skipper Henri Michel, who won his 50th cap as captain against Portugal and is third in the list of all-time French internationals.

Despite being without six key players, France won 2-0. Bruno Baronchelli, in only his third game, volleyed home a free kick in the 10th minute from an acute angle, then laid on the second for Marc Berdoll five minutes before half-time.

France:— Rey — Janvion, Bossis, Rio, Lopez (Battiston) — Sahnoun, Baronchelli, Michel — Berdoll (Amisse), Giresse, Six.

Portugal:— Bento — Artur, Humberto, Laranjeira, Cardoso — Toni, Jose Costa (Oscar Duarte), Celso — Manuel Fernandes (Arsenio Jardim), Alves, Oliveira.

## HUNGARY

*WITH their league programme running at two games a week, Hungary appear to have little time at the moment to start seriously preparing their World Cup squad.*

*However, before manager Lajos Baroti went off round Europe on a spying trip he set up a match between the Hungary A and B teams, which finished in a 1-1 draw.*

*Hungary A: Gujdar – Torok, Balint, Kereki, J. Toth – Nyikos, Pintér, Zombori – Fazekas, Torocsik, Varadi.*

*Hungary B: Z. Toth – Paroczai, Kerekes, A. Nagy, Vegh – Rab, Pasztor, Csongradi – Majer, Izso, Magyar.*

*Confidence – not notably high after the tough World Cup draw – was a little improved after Jeno Buzansky, right back in the great team of the early 1950s, offered his opinion that Hungary should qualify for the second round.*

*Baroti has named a squad of 25 from which the final squad will be chosen. In addition to most of the players in the A-B game, he named: goalkeeper Meszaros (Vasas); defenders Martos (Ferencvaros), Kocsis and Lukacs (Honved), midfielders Halasz and Csapo (Tatabanya), Ebedli (Ferencvaros), forwards Pusztai (Honved), Kovacs (Vasas).*

*Every Monday the squad is being brought together in Budapest, and warm-up games have been planned on these dates:– April 15 v Czechoslovakia (Budapest); May 15 v Schalke (a); May 20 v Eintracht Frankfurt (a); May 24 v England (Wembley); May 26 v Strasbourg or Sochaux (a).*

# WORLD CUP CO

**TSCHEU LA LING could be the newcomer to make the world sit up in the World Cup Finals.**

Ajax's winger, born of Chinese background in The Hague, showed that he could happily swap from left to right to make way for Rob Rensenbrink when he scored Holland's winner in the 2-1 win over Israel in Tel Aviv.

The match, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Israeli FA, saw Holland go ahead through Rensenbrink after 29 minutes. Peretz equalised in the 29th, but Henk Leuwen and Tscheu La Ling scrambled in the winner with three minutes remaining.

Israel: Haviv — Machmes, Yerushalmi, M. Cohen, L. Cohen, Bar, Shum, Mamilkan, Damti, Peretz, Lavie.

Holland: Schryvers — Suubier, Krol, Rijsbergen, Hovenkamp — Peters, van Hanegam, Van der Kerkhof — Tscheu La Ling, Van Leuwen, Rensenbrink.

FIFA president Joao Havelange was among the 30,000 crowd.

Manager Ernst Happel failed in his attempt to try to talk Johan Cruyff into rescinding his decision not to play in the finals, and the Spanish Press were full of rumours and reports that Cruyff's decision had been taken at the behest of his wife, Danny, after certain incidents during the 1974 Finals.

Happel, having failed there — though even now there is a lobby for Cruyff to play in the second round of the finals — succeeded in stirring up a hornet's nest when he assigned publicity contract work to the Inter-Football agency run by Cruyff's father-in-law Cor Coster. KNVB officials quickly protested that this should have been their decision, not Happel's.

So, while Happel continues despite rumours of a return by Rinus Michels and his own departure for Real Madrid, the KNVB must also do their best to ignore growing pressure from some entertainers and politicians for a boycott on the finals.

Warm-up games: April 5 — v Tunisia (Tunis). May 16—18 Paris tournament. May 20 — v Austria (Vienna).

## IRAN

*IRAN boss Heshmat Mohajerani is hoping that a five-day visit to Tehran by retired Brazilian superstar Pele will help provide his players with the inspiration to get down to work and prepare seriously for the Finals.*

*The Iranians face these warm-up games: April 5 v Yugoslavia (Tehran). April 18 v Wales (Tehran). April 28 v Mexico (Tehran).*

## ITALY

**DINO ZOFF remains — just — the most secure goalkeeper in *Calcio*, but his general form this season has manager Enzo Bearzot worried.**

Zoff has shown weaknesses in various internationals, not least when Michel Platini twice beat him with free kicks in the 2-2 draw with France (only one goal was allowed to stand).

Zoff's critics say he's long been over the hill and call up statistics to prove it. In his first 33 internationals he conceded 17 goals, in his next 27 he's let in 29!

The trouble is, there's no ready-made replacement. Milan fans push the case of 38-year-old Enrico Albertosi, but that's not a solution to appeal to Bearzot, who keeps Roma's Paolo Conti and Inter's Ivano Bordon as his first reserves.

Italy's Giancarlo Antognoni.

Another Juventus player in trouble is Roberto Bettega, who has gone short of goals in the league while struggling with back trouble.

Meanwhile Fiorentina coach Beppe Chiappella wants Bearzot to drop Giancarlo Antognoni from his squad until after the season's end, as Fiorentina struggle to escape relegation.

The Italians have recently confirmed another warm-up game against Yugoslavia on May 18.

## MEXICO

**AFTER the successes of Victor Rangel and Leonardo Cuellar in earlier games, Mexico boss Jose Antonio Roca was extremely pleased with the 5-1 win over El Salvador in Mexico City.**

Three of the goals — Mexico led 3-1 at half-time — came from another young forward of potential, Hugo Sanchez. He has now scored nine times in three games — against a Levsky-Spartak Sofia XI, then Grasshoppers Zurich, now El Salvador.

Lugo and Mendizabal were the other Mexican scorers against El Salvador, but Roca warned: "We must keep our feet on the ground. We've had it too easy in these last three games and that makes it hard to judge our progress."

One setback is the knee injury suffered by 18-year-old Agustin Manzo. He needs an operation and will probably miss Argentina.

Warm-up games: April 4 v Bulgaria (Mexico City). April 26 v Spain (Granada). May 1 v Celta de Vigo (Vigo, Spain). May 4 v Finland (Helsinki). May 8 v Eintracht (Frankfurt).

## PERU

MARCOS CALDERON took his squad to the mountain retreat of Chaclacayo for the first get-together since he was confirmed as World Cup boss.

Chaclacayo was chosen because it is about the same altitude as Mendoza, where the Peruvians will be based.

Calderon soon had more decisions to make, dropping veteran skipper Julio Melendez and goalkeeper Ganoza after they failed to manage the fitness tests. Surprisingly, the other veteran defender, Hector Chumpitez, was judged top of the class, narrowly ahead of 30-year-old Teofilo Cubillas and 29-year-old Percy Rojas.

Striker Rojas, incidentally, will be staying in Argentina after the finals — with South American club champions Boca Juniors.

Calderon remains uncertain about the situation of star right winger Juan Jose Munante. He was expected back in Peru with a local club. Instead it now seems that not only will he be staying in Mexico with Club Universidad, but that he may need a nose operation.

Another player whose future is in some doubt is German Leguia, Melendez's replacement. He's been offered a contract by Spain's Espanol Barcelona.

One more controversy — the players are divided about whether their wives should be allowed to go to Argentina. The wives are up in arms — they're demanding to make the trip — "so that our husbands won't feel homesick".

## POLAND

**MANAGER Jacek Gmoch, is getting it all together — he's got his warm-up fixtures sorted out, appointed a 26-year-old woman friend — Barbara Gosieniecka — as team psychologist, and threatened goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski with the sack if he doesn't knuckle down to work.**

Already match preparation is under way — starting with a 14-0 win over a local team in Yugoslavia. Zbigniew Boniek hit four goals, Kusto and Mazur two each.

Kusto got another goal in the 1-0 win over Olimpia Ljubljana, and then Poland were flown out to the Middle East for two matches in Kuwait. Newcomer Andrzej Iwan scored twice in the 3-1 win over Mario Zagalo's Kuwait (Lato got the other goal) and then hit two more in the 2-2 draw with Arabia FC.

## SCOTLAND

A 2-1 win over Bulgaria at Hampden was good news for Scotland, with only the British championship games to come before the trip to Argentina.

Mladenov put the Bulgarians ahead after eight minutes, but goals from Archie Gemmill (42) and Ian Wallace (73) turned the match

# UNTDOWN

## Argentina '78

**Neil McNab of Tottenham — in Scotland's World Cup 40 — beats Donato Nardiello and Peter Nicholas in the under-21 international with Wales.**

round and put the smile back on the face of manager Ally McLeod.

Shortly afterwards he named this squad of 40:

*Goalkeepers:* Rough (Partick), J. Stewart (Kilmarnock), D. Stewart (Leeds), Clark (Aberdeen), Blyth (Coventry). *Defenders:* McGrain, Aitken, McDonald (Celtic), Jardine, T. Forsyth (Rangers), Kennedy, Miller (Aberdeen), Donachie (Man. City), F. Gray (Leeds), Buchan, McQueen (Man. Utd), Blackley (Newcastle), Burns (Nottingham Forest), Narey, Hegarty (Dundee Utd). *Midfield:* Masson, Rioch (Derby) Gemmill (Nottingham Forest), Souness (Liverpool), Wark (Ipswich), McNab (Tottenham), Fitzpatrick (St Mirren), Macari (Man. Utd), Hartford (Man. City). *Forwards:* Jordan (Man. Utd), Dalglish (Liverpool), Gray (Aston Villa), Harper (Aberdeen), Johnstone (Rangers), McGarvey (St Mirren), Johnston (West Bromwich), Payne (Dundee Utd), Robertson (Nottingham Forest), Wallace (Coventry), Graham (Leeds).

## SPAIN

**SPAIN are sure to make the second round — that's the view of Helenio Herrera and also Helmut Senekowitsch, manager of Austria. The only difference is that HH sees Spain going through with Brazil, while Senekowitsch sees Spain going through with Austria!**

Ladislao Kubala had a run-out against Norway towards the end of March, then the following games were lined up: April 26 v Mexico (Granada). May 24 v Uruguay (Montevideo). May 26 v Uruguayan club team (Montevideo).

Real Madrid defender Jose Camacho is back on his feet after his knee ligament operation and hoping to try to get fit for the finals, but his appearance remains in extreme doubt.

In the meantime club colleague Pirri is no doubt eagerly anticipating the next few months. Argentina will not only provide a fine stage for probably his last international appearance, but he also stands to earn up to £50,000 out of business and sponsorship contracts!

## SWEDEN

WITH the good news that Ralf Edström is back in training after another knee operation, manager Georg Ericsson took his home-based players off for a week in Spain.

The squad: *Goalkeepers:* Hagberg and Moeller. *Defenders:* Ambertsson, M. Andersson, R. Andersson, Johansson, Karlsson, Nordqvist, Aahman. *Midfield:* Boerjesson, Friedriksson, Larsson, Selander, Tapper. *Forwards:* Lundberg, Nilsson, Nordin, Ohlsson, Sjoeberg, Aashund.

The Swedes played three private games with local lower division teams before returning home to prepare for the 'heavy' matches against East Germany (April 4), West Germany (Stockholm, April 19) and Czechoslovakia (May 18).

For at least one of those games the Swedes hope to be able to include goalkeeper Ronnie Hellström, who has just signed a new four-year contract with Kaiserslautern in West Germany. Hellström is 29.

## TUNISIA

*TWO problems for coach Majid Chetali have upset Tunisia's hopes of a straightforward warm-up for the finals.*

*First political unrest meant that the league programme was suspended for nearly two weeks, and Tunisia's footballers had to stay at home, without much organised training or preparation.*

*Then the FA found it extremely difficult when they tried to arrange friendly matches. Though a visit to France in May has been virtually settled, the Tunisians have found no one yet willing to commit themselves to a trip to Tunis — certainly not for the comparatively small fees the FA can afford.*

*It all adds up to a gloomy prospect, though the Tunisians were able to get in a competitive series of matches in the African championships which began in Accra, Ghana, at the start of March.*

## WEST GERMANY

**THE 2-1 win over England did not solve many problems, though the Germans were unlucky that flu kept Klaus Fischer out of the game, and that Heinz Flohe was injured during the match.**

**England went 1-0 up before the interval through a Stuart Pearson header that Rolf Russmann should never have allowed, and it was only the second half substitution of Ronnie Worm for anonymous Bernd Hölzenbein that altered the complexion of the game.**

**Worm, who had scored for the B team the previous night in the 2-1 defeat by England B, hit the equaliser, then Rainer Bonhof's free kick provided the winner five minutes from time.**

**Teams:**

**West Germany: Maier — Vogts, Russmann, Schwarzenbeck, Zimmermann — Neumann (Dietz 55), Bonhof, Flohe (Burgsmuller 35) — Abramczik, Hölzenbein (Worm 57), Rummenigge.**

**England: Clemence — Neal, Watson, Hughes, Mills — Wilkins, Keegan (Francis), Brooking — Coppell, Pearson, Barnes.**

**Despite Bayern coach Gyula Lorant's boast that Georg Schwarzenbeck is now the best sweeper in the Bundesliga, he didn't quite look the part before his own fans in the Olympic stadium. The problem for manager Helmut Schön was that his original replacement for Franz Beckenbauer was Manfred Kaltz, and the Hamburg defender had suffered from a form crisis which had seen his club move him back to right back.**

**While Paul Breitner remains as far from a recall as ever, speculation began after the England game that Jürgen Grabowski might, at 34, be persuaded to make a comeback.**

**Outside right in the 1970 and 1974 World Cup teams, Grabowski has since become the outstanding midfield general in the league with the departures of Netzer and Overath. Like Gerd Müller he quit international soccer after the 1974 finals, upset at the treatment of the players' families at official receptions.**

**However there was no decision by the time of the Frankfurt friendly against Russia, for which Schön recalled Kaltz as sweeper and, with Fischer available again, pushed Hölzenbein back into midfield, where he did well.**

**But it was not a satisfactory night. Again the victory margin was only one goal — headed by Rolf Russmann from a Flohe free kick after 47 minutes for a 1-0 win.**

**Both sides had chances. For Russia Leonid Buryak had a header just too high, and for the Germans Bonhof hit a post. In the 59th minute Fischer had a brilliant goal disallowed for dangerous kicking by Scotland's World Cup referee John Gordon. For Russia Vikto Kolotov had a first-goal refused for offside.**

**West Germany: Maier — Vogts, Russmann, Kaltz, Dietz — Bonhof, Hölzenbein, Flohe — Abramczik, Fischer, Rummenigge.**

**Russia: Degtyarev — Makovikov, Bubnov, Prigoda, Zhupikov — Buryak (Minaev), Kolotov, Veremeyev, Konkov — Federov, Blokhin.**

# HERRERA BACK AT BARCELONA?

**HELENIO HERRERA may be returning to Barcelona!**

**That's the rumour sweeping the Cutalan capital as Dutch coach Rinus Michels openly admits this is likely to be his last season in charge.**

**Herrera was boss from 1958 to 1960, taking Barcelona to the league title twice and the semi-finals of the Champions' Cup. He was sacked by public demand after the 1960 defeat by Real Madrid.**

**One of his stars then, Luis Suarez, could be returning with Herrera. The tip is that if Herrera, one-time guiding light of world club champions Internazionale, returns he will be general manager with Suarez returning to Nou Camp as trainer.**

**Herrera now earns his living as a journalist in Italy, while Suarez is coach to Italian second division side, Como.**

★ ★ ★

**GOOD NEWS for Salamanca goalkeeper Jorge d'Alessandro. The Argentinian thought his career finished after having a kidney removed following injury in a game at Bilbao.**

**Now a Spanish kidney specialist has told d'Alessandro he may soon be able to play again.**

★ ★ ★

**BAD NEWS for another goalkeeper, Spanish international Francisco Ruiz 'Paco' of Sevilla. He has been sentenced to five days' detention and fined £300 for attacking a spectator who insulted him after Sevilla were beaten by locak rivals Betis in a pre-season tournament.**

# Rojo back and stars

## News from Spain by Keir Radnedge

**A STORYBOOK return to action for Bilbao's star left-winger, Chechu Rojo, has dominated action in Spain.**

Rojo injured an Achilles tendon just before the season and nothing, it seemed, would cure it. Rojo tried all sorts of treatments, including acupuncture, but he played only in one game, an early UEFA Cup tie against Ujpest Dozsa.

He hadn't seen any league or cup action and, without their most inspiring player, Bilbao had made a faltering start in the league and gone out of the UEFA Cup — in which they were finalists last year — to Aston Villa.

They went out of the Cup to — to Atletico Madrid, after two remarkable games. Bilbao won 2-1 in the first leg in Madrid and seemed to be cruising to victory in their own Estadio San Mames when Atletico's Marcelino and young newcomer Julio Alberto both put through their own net in the first 50 minutes!

Atletico, 2-0 down and with nothing to lose, attacked and another of their young players forced into the senior side because of injury, Juan Jose Maria Rubio, was fouled, and hit the free kick past Jose Iribar. Antonio Aguilar then made it 2-2, and in the *third minute* of injury time Ruben Cano squared the tie on aggregate.

The away goals rule doesn't apply in the Spanish Cup, so the tie went into extra time. With eight minutes to go Carlos headed Bilbao level in the match and back ahead on aggregate, yet in the *second minute* of injury time Agustin Guisasola sent Rubio headlong, and the young striker — who only came on as a half-time substitute — converted the penalty.

That made it 4-3 to Atletico and 6-6 on aggregate. And this meant a penalty decider. It was 4-4 after the first series of five each, and so to the sudden death series. Miguel Reina blocked a kick from Jose Maria Lasa, and Rubio stepped forward to beat Iribar and send Atletico into the quarter finals.

Bilbao were incensed at the refereeing and more than ever determined to take some revenge over the city of Madrid the following Sunday, when league leaders Real visited San Mames.

Madrid had been knocked out of the Cup in midweek by Real Sociedad de San Sebastian and seemed on their way to a useful point from a 0-0 draw when Bilbao coach Koldo Aguirre decided, in the 67th minute, to gamble with the introduction of the recovering Rojo for his first league appearance.

It couldn't have worked better. In the 76th minute he laid on a goal for Carlos, and in the dying seconds curled in a corner which Dani hit it to provide Bilbao with a 2-0 win!

"I'd never sat on the substitutes' bench before," said Rojo later. But he was back there the next Sunday as Bilbao returned to Madrid to play champions Atletico again this time in the league.

Alain and Rojo sat it out until, with the score still 0-0 in the 82nd minute, Aguirre waved him on. With three minutes remaining, he curled the ball up to Javier Irureta, who moved it on for Dani to hit a cross shot past Reina. Bilbao had won 1-0 — Rojo had triumphed again!

**That same day leaders Real Madrid were going down 3-2 at Burgos. But, fortunately for them, closest rivals Barcelona allowed themselves to be held 1-1 at home by bottom of the table Cadiz. It was the second time in successive weeks CFB has let Madrid off the hook. The previous Sunday, when Madrid were going down in Bilbao, Barcelona allowed themselves to be beaten 1-0 by Atletico Madrid — a late Eugenio Leal goal doing the damage.**

### Odd season

Barcelona have had an odd season. At one time they were seven points behind Madrid, now they are four points in arrears, but owing their recovery more to Madrid's failings than their own efforts.

At one stage skipper Johan Cruyff had received more yellow cards this season — four — than he had scored goals — three!

Cruyff was whistled and jeered in the Cadiz game for the way he retreated into defence in the second half. The fans couldn't understand it, particularly after Cadiz took a shock lead and Barcelona had Carlos Rexach sent off for retaliation. In fact, as coach Rinus Michels explained later: "The idea was for Cruyff to stay back and hit long balls down the middle for our big men to chase. I thought this was our best chance against Cadiz, who are so weak in the air."

But Barcelona left it very late before sweeper Antonio Olmo snatched the equaliser.

Injury-hit Madrid have 33 points and Barcelona 29, then come Bilbao and Gijon on 27. Gijon are the latest of the smaller clubs to tilt for a place in Europe next season. They are now a point ahead of Rayo Vallecano and two clear of Valencia.

The big-spending *Ches* are casting around for another foreign star after the failure of Dario Felman to make an impact since he joined from Boca Juniors at the start of the season.

Klaus Toppmoller of Kaiserslautern and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge of Bayern Munich are among the Europeans who interest Valencia, but they would dearly like Argentina's Daniel Bertoni to partner Mario Kempes up front.

Meanwhile Kempes figured in a laughable — but costly — incident. Because Felman doesn't drive, Kempes has taken to giving him a lift to training in the mornings.

One particular day Kempes's car had a puncture and both men were of course late. French coach Marcel Domingo accordingly fined them. Felman, upset, told Kempes that since it was Kempes's car, then Kempes ought to pay his fine for him.

Kempes disagreed and the argument continued so long that Domingo fined them a second time for refusing to get changed!

Domingo is not having the happiest of times. Several of his team were involved in a dressing room skirmish recently, and the controversial Frenchman — who isn't nicknamed Volcano for nothing — may well be on his way at the end of the season.

Valencia, for their part, might be better advised to forget about trying to buy success and concentrate on bringing through their own discoveries. Two such young midfielders have both done well in the league recently — 22-year-old Huginio Garcia Fernandez (known as Higinio) and 20-year-old Javier Subirats.

Higinio joined Valencia's youth set-up when he was only 10!

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## 1977 F.A. CUP FINAL
### MAN. UTD 2 LIVERPOOL 1

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| | |
|---|---|
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| 200ft reel col sound | £16.40 |

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|---|---|
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| 200ft reel Col sound | £16.40 |

## 1977 INTERNATIONAL
### ENGLAND 0 HOLLAND 2

In SUPER 8 as follows

| | |
|---|---|
| 200ft reel B/W sil | £6.00 |
| 200ft reel Col sil | £13.00 |
| 200ft reel Col sound | £16.40 |
| 400ft reel Col sound | £31.50 |

## 1976 EURO NATIONS CUP
### Czechoslovakia 7, West Germany 5

In SUPER 8 as follows

| | |
|---|---|
| 400ft reel b/w silent | £11.20 |
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| 400ft reel col sound | £31.50 |

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**F.A. CUP FINALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| *1976 S'hampton 1, Man. Utd 0 | 200ft |
| *1975 West Ham 2, Fulham 0 | 200ft |
| *1974 Liverpool 3, Newcastle 0 | 200ft |
| *1973 Sunderland 1, Leeds 0 | 200ft |
| 1973 Semi: Sunderland 2, Arsenal 1 | 50ft |
| 1973 Semi: Leeds 1, Wolves 0 | 100ft |
| *1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0 | 100ft |
| *1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1 | 200ft |
| 1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2 | 100ft |
| 1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1 | 100ft |
| 1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0 | 100ft |
| 1968 WBA 1, Everton 0 | 200ft |
| 1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1 | 200ft |
| 1966 Everton 3, Sheff Wed 2 | 200ft |
| 1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1 | 200ft |
| 1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2 | 200ft |
| 1963 Man. Utd 3, Leicester 1 | 200ft |
| 1962 Spurs 3, Burnley 1 | 100ft |
| 1960 Wolves 3, Blackburn 0 | 100ft |
| 1959 Nott'ham F. 2, Luton 1 | 100ft |
| 1958 Bolton 2, Man. Utd 0 | 100ft |
| 1957 Aston Villa 2, Man. Utd 1 | 100ft |
| 1953 Blackpool 4, Bolton 3 | 100ft |
| 1954 to 1956 also available | 100ft |

**WORLD CUP***

| | |
|---|---|
| *1974 W. Germany 2, Holland 1 | 200ft |
| *1974 W. Germany 4, Sweden 2 | 200ft |
| *1974 Holland 2, Brazil 0 | 200ft |
| *1974 Holland 4, Argentina 0 | 200ft |
| *1974 Holland 4, Bulgaria 1 | 200ft |
| *1974 Yugoslavia 9, Zaire 0 | 200ft |
| *1974 Sweden 2, Yugoslavia 1 | 200ft |
| Above films also available in 400ft b/w and colour silent. 400ft b/w and colour sound | |
| *1970 Brazil 4, Italy 1 | 200ft |
| *1970 Italy 4, W. Germany 3 | 200ft |
| *1970 England 2, W. Germany 3 | 200ft |
| *1970 England 2, W. Germany 2 | 200ft & 400ft |
| *1966 England 4, W. Germany 2 | 200ft & 400ft |
| Also colour sound | 200ft |
| 1966 England 2, Portugal 1 | 200ft |
| 1965 Hungary 3, Brazil 1 | 200ft |
| 1966 Korea 3, Portugal 5 | 200ft |
| (1962, 1958 and 1954 WORLD CUPS also available) | |

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**EUROPEAN CUP**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1976 B. Munich 1, St. Etienne 0 | 200ft/400ft |
| also 400ft b/w and colour sound | |
| 1975 B. Munich 2, Leeds 0 | 150ft |
| 1972 Ajax 2, Inter Milan 0 | 200ft |
| 1971 Ajax 2, Panathinaikos 0 | 100ft |
| 1970 Feyenoord 3, Celtic 1 | 200ft |
| 1969 Milan 4, Ajax 1 | 200ft |
| 1968 Man. Utd 4, Benfica 1 | 200ft/400ft |
| 1966 Man. Utd 3, Madrid 3 (semi final) | 200ft |
| 1967 Celtic 2, Inter Milan 1 | 200ft/400ft |
| 1966 Man. Utd 5, Benfica 1 | 200ft |
| 1963 Milan 2, Benfica 1 | 200ft |
| 1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3 | 200ft/400ft |

**EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1963 Spurs 5, Atl. Madrid 1 | 200ft |
| 1965 West Ham 2, TSV Munich 0 | 200ft |

**FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP**

| | |
|---|---|
| * 1976 Man. City 2, Newcastle 1 | 200ft |
| * 1975 Aston Villa 1, Norwich 0 | 100ft |
| * 1974 Wolves 2, Man. City 1 | 100ft |
| 1973 Spurs 1, Norwich 0 | 100ft |
| 1972 Stoke 2, Chelsea 1 | 200ft |
| 1971 Spurs 2, Aston Villa 0 | 50ft |
| 1967 Q.P.R. 3, W.B.A. 2 | 200ft |

**LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1968 Newcastle 3, Man. City 4 | 200ft |

**INTERNATIONALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1976 Scotland 2, England 1 | 200ft/400ft |
| also 400ft b/w sound | |
| 1975 England 5, Scotland 1 | 200ft |
| also 400ft b/w sound | |
| 1975 Five goal Super Mac | 200ft |
| also 400ft b/w sound | |
| 1968 England 4, Scotland 1 | 200ft |
| 1967 Scotland 3, England 2 | 400ft |
| 1963 Hungary 6, England 3 | 100ft |
| also 100ft b/w sound £5.06 | |

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| | |
|---|---|
| PELE — Prince of Soccer | 200ft |
| * SIX GOAL HURST | 50ft |
| SIX GOAL BEST | 50ft |

**SCOTTISH CUP FINALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1976 Rangers 3, Hearts 1 | 200ft/400ft |
| Also 400ft b/w sound | |
| * 1973 Rangers 3, Celtic 2 | 200ft |
| * 1972 Celtic 6, Hibs 1 | 100ft |

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1976 EUFA CUP
Liverpool v Bruges

1976 FA CUP FINAL
Super Saints!

1976 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Man. City v Newcastle

1976 KINGS OF SCOTLAND
Rangers v Hearts

1975 F.A. CUP FINAL
Hail to The Hammers!

1975 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Viva The Villa!

1974 FA CUP FINAL
Liverpool's Cup

1974 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Wonderful Wolves!

1973 FA CUP FINAL
Sunderland's Cup

1973 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Spurs v Norwich

1972 FA CUP FINAL
Leeds v Arsenal

1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Salute to Stoke!

1971 FA CUP FINAL
Arsenal v Liverpool

1971 EURO CUP WINNERS
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1971 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
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1970 FA CUP FINAL
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# WORLD CUP

## compiled by JA

## GROUP ONE

**ARGENTINA** **FRANCE**
**HUNGARY** **ITALY**

JUNE 2: Hungary v Argentina .....Buenos Aires (River Plate)
France v Italy .....(Mar Del Plata)
JUNE 6: Argentina v France .....Buenos Aires (River Plate)
Italy v Hungary .....Mar Del Plata
JUNE 10: Italy v Argentina .....Buenos Aires (River Plate)
France v Hungary .....Mar Del Plata

## GROUP THREE

**AUSTRIA** **SWEDEN**
**SPAIN** **BRAZIL**

JUNE 3: Sweden v Brazil .....Mar Del Plat
Spain v Austria .....Buenos Aires (Velez
JUNE 7: Spain v Brazil .....Mar Del Plat
Austria v Sweden .....Buenos Airs (Velez
JUNE 11: Brazil v Austria .....Mar Del Plat
Sweden v Spain .....Buenos Aires (Velez

| COUNTRY | ARGENTINA | AUSTRIA | BRAZIL | FRANCE | HOLLAND | HUNGARY | IRAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Qualified by Beating: | Qualified as Hosts | Malta (A) 1-0<br>Turkey (H) 1-0<br>Malta (H) 9-0<br>E. Germany (H) 1-1<br>E. Germany (A) 1-1<br>Turkey (A) 1-0 | Colombia (A) 0-0<br>Colombia (H) 6-0<br>Paraguay (A) 1-0<br>Paraguay (H) 1-1<br>Peru (N) 1-0<br>Bolivia (N) 8-0 | Bulgaria (A) 2-2<br>Eire (H) 2-0<br>Eire (A) 0-1<br>Bulgaria (H) 3-1 | Iceland (A) 1-0<br>N. Ireland (H) 2-2<br>Belgium (A) 2-0<br>Iceland (H) 4-1<br>N. Ireland (A) 1-0<br>Belgium (H) 1-0 | Greece (A) 1-1<br>USSR (H) 2-1<br>USSR (A) 0-2<br>Greece (H) 3-0<br>Bolivia (H) 6-0<br>Bolivia (A) 3-2 | Saudi Arabia (A) 3-0<br>Syria (A) 1-0<br>Syria (H) 2-0 (by forfeit)<br>Saudia Arabia (H) 2-0<br>Hong Kong (A) 2-0<br>S. Korea (A) 0-0<br>Australia (A) 1-0<br>Kuwait (H) 1-0<br>S. Korea (H) 2-2<br>Hong Kong (H) 3-0<br>Australia (H) 1-0<br>Kuwait (A) 2-1 |
| No. of Final Stage Appearances | 7th | 4th | 11th (Record) | 7th | 4th | 7th | 1st |
| World Cup Honours | Runners-up 1930 | Third Place 1954<br>Fourth 1934 | Winners 1958, 1962 1970<br>Runners-up 1950<br>Third Place 1938 | Third Place 1958 | Runners-up 1974 | Runners-up 1938, 1954 | |
| Trainer | Cesar Luis Menotti | Helmut Senekowitsch | Claudio Coutinho | Michel Hidalgo | Ernst Happel (Aust.) | Lajos Baroti | Heshmat Mohajerani |
| Most Capped Player In Squad Club Position | Rene Houseman Age 24 41 Caps Huracan Forward | Robert Sara Age 31 34 Caps Austria/WAC Right-back | Roberto Rivelino Age 108 Caps Fluminense Midfield | Henri Michel Age 38 46 Caps Nantes Midfield | Wim Suurbier Age 33 54 Caps Schalke 04* Right-back | Laszlo Fazekas Age 30 69 Caps Ujpesti Doza Forward | Ali Parvin Age 31 82 Caps Taj Midfield |

* West Germany

# P CHART

## CK ROLLIN

## GROUP TWO

**POLAND** **TUNISIA**

**W. GERMANY** **MEXICO**

JUNE 1: W. Germany v Poland ....Buenos Aires (River Plate)
JUNE 2: Tunisia v Mexico .....Rosario
JUNE 6: Mexico v W. Germany .....Cordoba
Poland v Tunisia .....Rosario
JUNE 10: Tunisia v W. Germany .....Cordoba
Mexico v Poland .....Rosario

## GROUP FOUR

**HOLLAND** **SCOTLAND**

**IRAN** **PERU**

JUNE 3: Holland v Iran .....Mendoza
Peru v Scotland .....Cordoba
JUNE 7: Holland v Peru .....Mendoza
Scotland v Iran .....Cordoba
JUNE 11: Holland v Scotland .....Mendoza
Peru v Iran .....Cordoba

| TALY | MEXICO | PERU | POLAND | SCOTLAND | SPAIN | SWEDEN | TUNISIA | W. GERMANY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Luxembourg (A)<br>1-1<br>England (H)<br>2-0<br>Finland (A)<br>1-0<br>Finland (H)<br>1-1<br>England (A)<br>1-2<br>Luxembourg (H)<br>1-0 | USA (A)<br>0-0<br>Canada (A)<br>0-1<br>USA (H)<br>3-0<br>Canada (H)<br>0-0<br>Haiti (H)<br>4-1<br>El Salvador (H)<br>3-1<br>Surinam (H)<br>8-1<br>Guatemala (H)<br>2-1<br>Canada (H)<br>3-1 | Ecuador (A)<br>1-1<br>Chile (A)<br>1-1<br>Ecuador (H)<br>4-0<br>Chile (H)<br>2-0<br>Brazil (N)<br>0-1<br>Bolivia (N)<br>5-0 | Portugal (A)<br>2-0<br>Cyprus (H)<br>5-0<br>Denmark (A)<br>2-1<br>Cyprus (A)<br>3-1<br>Denmark (H)<br>4-1<br>Portugal (H)<br>1-1 | C'slovakia (A)<br>0-2<br>Wales (H)<br>1-0<br>C'slovakia (H)<br>3-1<br>Wales (A)<br>2-0 | Yugoslavia (H)<br>1-0<br>Rumania (A)<br>0-1<br>Rumania (H)<br>2-0<br>Yugoslavia (A)<br>1-0 | Norway (H)<br>2-0<br>Switzerland (A)<br>2-1<br>Switzerland (H)<br>2-1<br>Norway (A)<br>1-2 | Morocco (A)<br>1-1<br>Morocco (H)<br>1-1 (was 4-2 on pens.)<br>Algeria (H)<br>2-0<br>Algeria (A)<br>1-1<br>Guinea (A)<br>0-1<br>Guinea (H)<br>3-1<br>Nigeria (H)<br>0-0<br>Nigeria (A)<br>1-0<br>Egypt (A)<br>2-3<br>Egypt (H)<br>4-1 | Qualified<br>as<br>Holders |
| th | 8th | 3rd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 7th | 1st | 9th |
| Winners<br>934, 1938<br>Runners-up<br>978 | | | Third Place<br>1974 | | Fourth<br>1950 | Runners-up<br>1958<br>Third Place<br>1950<br>Fourth<br>1938 | | Winners<br>1954<br>Runners-up<br>1966Third Place<br>1934, 1970<br>Fourth 1958 |
| nzo<br>earzot | Jose Antonio<br>Roca | Marcos<br>Calderon | Jacek<br>Gmoch | Ally<br>MacLeod | Ladislao<br>Kubala | Georg<br>Eriksson | Majid<br>Chetali | Helmut<br>Schoen |
| Giacinto<br>Facchetti<br>Age 35<br>3 Caps<br>Inter-Milan<br>Sweeper | Javier<br>Guzman<br>Age 31<br>40 Caps<br>Cruz Azul<br>Centre-back | Hector<br>Chumpitaz<br>Age 36<br>102 Caps<br>Spt Cristal<br>Centre-back | Kazimierz<br>Deyna<br>Age 30<br>92 Caps<br>Legia Warsaw<br>Midfield | Kenny<br>Dalglish<br>Age 27<br>51 Caps<br>Liverpool<br>Forward | Jose<br>Pirri<br>Age 32<br>36 Caps<br>Real Madrid<br>Sweeper | Bjorn<br>Nordqvist<br>Age 35<br>106 Caps<br>IFK Gotenborg<br>Centre-back | Sadok<br>Attouga<br>Age 32<br>108 Caps<br>Club Africain<br>Goalkeeper | Berti<br>Vogts<br>Age 31<br>87 Caps<br>Bor. Moen.<br>Right-back |

**Group 6**

**June 16, 1976 at Stockholm**
**SWEDEN (2) 2 (Andersson, Sjoberg)**
**NORWAY (0) 0**

**Sweden:** Hellstrom; Werner, Karlsson, Nordqvist, Bjorn Andersson, Tapper, Linderoth, Grahn, Torstensson, Sjoberg, Sandberg (Watsson)

**Norway:** Jacobsen; Karsen, Birkelund, Grondalen, Pedersen, Johannessen, Kvia, Skisdad, Skuseth, Lund, Hoyland

**Attendance:** 30,631

**September 8, 1976 at Oslo**
**NORWAY (0) 1 Lund**
**SWITZERLAND (0) 0**

**Norway:** Jacobsen (T); Karlsen, Birkelund, Kordahl, Grondalen, Albertsen, Kvia, Hansen, Thunberg, Iversen, Lund

**Switzerland:** Burgener, Stohler, Bizzini (Guyot), Trinchero, Brechbuhl, Barberis, Kuhn, Botteron, Jeandupeux, Kunzli, Muller

**October 9, 1976 at Basle**
**SWITZERLAND (1) 1 (Trinchero pen.)**
**SWEDEN (1) 2 (Borjesson, Sjoberg)**

**Switzerland:** Burgener (Gross); Trinchero, Brechbuhl, Bizzini, Chapuisat, Conz, Barberis, Botteron, Kuttel (Muller), Seiler, Jeandupeux

**Sweden:** Hellstrom; Nordqvist, Andersson, Karlssen, Borg, Borjesson, Linderoth, Torstensson, Nilsson (Nordin), Sjoberg, Wendt (Ljungberg)

**Attendance:** 30,000

**June 8, 1977 at Stockholm**
**SWEDEN (0) 2 (Sjoberg, Borjesson)**
**SWITZERLAND (0) 1 (Risi)**

**Sweden:** Hellstrom; Nordqvist, Bjorn Andersson (Magnus Andersson), Roy Andersson, Augustsson, Larsson, Borjesson, Linderoth, Borg, Sjoberg, Wendt

**Switzerland:** Burgener; Chapuisat, Brechbuhl, Bizzini, Barberis, Trinchero (von Wartburg), Botteron, Demarmels, Elsener, Risi, Sulser (Muller)

**September 7, 1977 at Uppsala**
**NORWAY (1) 2 (Ottsen, Iversen)**
**SWEDEN (0) 1 (Sjoberg)**

**Sweden:** Hellstrom; Nordqvist, Roland Andersson, Roy Andersson, Borjesson, Linderoth, Fredriksson, Torstensson, Ecstrom (Larsson), Wendt, Sjoberg

**Norway:** Karlsen (G); Karlsen (H), Birkelund, Grondalen, Ottesen, Johansen, Thunberg, Lund, Iversen, Jacobsen (P), Jacobsen (T)

**Attendance:** 23,000

**October 30, 1977 at Berne**
**SWITZERLAND (1) 1 (Sulser)**
**NORWAY (0) 0**

**Switzerland:** Burgener; Chapuisat, Trinchero, Bizzini, In-Albon, Barberis, Meyer, Botteron, Eberer, Sulser (Muller), Schasenberger (Schnyder)

**Norway:** Karlsen (G); Grondalen, Karlsen (H), (Kordahl), Birkelund, Pedersen (Aase), Ottesen, Johansen, Thunberg, Jacobsen (P), Iversen, Lund

**Attendance:** 11,000

**Group 7**

**October 13, 1976 at Prague**
**CZECHOSLOVAKIA (0) 2 (Panenka, Petras)**
**SCOTLAND (0) 0**

**Czechoslovakia:** Vencel; Ondias, Josef Capkovic (Jurkemik), Ondrus, Gogh (Kozak), Biros, Petras, Panenka, Pollak, Masny, Nehoda

**Scotland:** Rough; McGrain, Donachie, Buchan, McQueen, Rioch, Dalglish (Burns), Masson (Hartford), Jordan, Gray (A), Gemmill

**Attendance:** 30,000

**November 17, 1976 at Hampden Park**
**SCOTLAND (1) 1 (Evans o.g.)**
**WALES (0) 0**

**Scotland:** Rough; McGrain, Donachie, Blackley, McQueen, Rioch (Hartford), Burns, Dalglish, Jordan, Gemmill, Gray (E) (Pettigrew)

**Wales:** Davies; Page, Jones (J), Phillips, Evans, Griffiths, Thomas, Flynn, Yorath, Toshack, James (Curtis)

**Attendance:** 63,233

# WATFORD CHAIRMAN —

## The Leslie Vernon Interview — with Elton John

**A LITTLE guy dressed in peacock coloured clothes, wearing a pair of enormous, gimmicky spectacles, sitting at a piano crooning away some unmemorable song in a falsetto voice. This was my first impression of Elton John, superstar extraordinary.**

I must confess that I am not a lover of present-day popular music, and harbour a built-up dislike of pop-stars, whose 'liberating' influences in my view have done a great deal of damage to the social order. The 'Beatles' have a lot to answer for, as they were instrumental in creating a teenager-orientated consumer society, which manufactures their own heroes, makes permissiveness a virtue, admires excesses. But prejudices are unfair by definition, and when I first met Elton at a 'Goaldiggers' Council meeting, I soon realised that there was much more to him than met the jaundiced eye.

One cannot argue with success, and Elton is obviously a supremely talented artist, not only as a performer, but also as a composer and record producer.

He was born in Pinner, Middlesex, on March 25, 1947, and was christened Reginald Kenneth Dwight, the only child of Sheila and Stanley Dwight. Took his first piano lesson at the age of four, gave his first public performance in 1959 at the Ruislip-Norwood Music Festival. (Unplaced — the winner is now an insurance agent!) At 17, he was playing his piano in a hotel bar for the princely sum of £1 per night plus tips (?).

At that time, he had left school, and had joined a music publishing company as tea-boy (making, delivering and drinking). In 1968, Reggie Dwight went out of existence, as Elton John became the 'official' name of our boy-wonder, by deed poll. His association with Bernie Taupin produced some hit songs, and the 23-year-old Elton "turns the place upside down in the Troubadour, Los Angeles. It is the proverbial overnight success story" — to quote the official communique.

The rest is history, as the saying goes, the likeable little guy makes a million (or several millions, but who's counting?) and in 1976, receives the final accolade — he is voted the Worst Dressed man in the United States!

At the same time, he becomes chairman of Watford Football club, and announces that he is taking a breather for a while. He says, using the idiom of his trade: "You lose touch. You lose touch and become remote, and I don't want to do that. I always do things by instinct, and I just know it's time to cool it". Football is not only the opium of the masses, but it has its devotees amongst the intellectuals, the show-biz fraternity, in fact, it's a common language which transcends all barriers.

### Sincere

I like Elton — I haven't got a badge to proclaim this sentiment, but I have always found him modest, sincere and well-meaning. His offices, Rocket Records, are in the heart of Mayfair, which is the stronghold of inherited wealth, peopled by aristocrats, sheiks, and refugees from Texas. But it is no surprise to see that the boy from Pinner also has his Rolls Royce parked outside the front entrance in the discreet square, complete with peaked-capped chauffeur, telephone and cocktail cabinet. He is obviously still in the running for further 'Worst Dressed' titles, judging by the pink velvet trousers, navy blue T-shirt and the little shapeless cap he wears.

Elton John doesn't profess to be a great expert on football. A touchingly modest attitude, since everyone I have ever met — from the postman to the President of FIFA — have all had strong opinions on every aspect of the game. So, it's refreshing to talk to someone who genuinely wishes to contribute to a sport's welfare. It is not an ego trip for him, he doesn't need the publicity. We talked in his private office, where the floor was littered with manuscripts, scores, newspaper cuttings — the pleasant disorder of a highly talented, busy man.

*"With your money, you would have been welcomed on the Board of practically every club in the country, so why Watford?"*

"Watford has always been my club. As a kid, I used to stand on the terraces watching my, then blue-shirted, heroes, dreaming about the day when I would play for them. My father's family has always been football-orientated, and my cousin, Roy Dwight, used to be a star forward with Fulham, and later played in the F.A. Cup Final for Nottingham Forest. But even then, while I was watching Roy play, my heart and my thoughts were elsewhere — I wanted to know Watford's result! After I made my name in the music world, I was asked to join the Club as 'Vice-President', and later I became a Director. Initially, I didn't spend much time attending to Watford's affairs, my role was mainly confined to 'fund raising' by giving a concert and personal appearances. But when my predecessor, Mr Jim Bonser, asked me to take over as Chairman, I didn't hesitate to accept the challenge, even though I realised that I had to cut down my touring commitments. There is a great deal of difference between the responsibilities of a Chairman and a Director. Everything stems from the top! I realised that truism in my first match as Chairman in September 1976, when, after 20 minutes, we were 3-0 down to Cambridge — I felt it was all my fault!"

*"What is the chemistry between you and manager Graham Taylor?"*

"The arrival of Graham Taylor was the turning point in our club's history. He sat me down and pointed out how disorganised we were — on and off the field. He inspires me, and I inspire him — we have a perfect Chairman-Manager relationship, talking football for hours — planning the future of Watford. There is an incredible sparkle between us. We are both very ambitious — that doesn't mean that we want to tread on anyone, but our objectives are clear. We both

# HOW THEY QUALIFIED

## Part four — Sweden and Scotland

**March 30, 1977 at Wrexham**
**WALES (1) 3 (James 2, Deacy)**
**CZECHOSLAVAKIA (0) 0**

**Wales:** Davies; Thomas, Jones (J), Mahoney, Phillips, Evans, Sayer, Flynn, Yorath, Deacy, James

**Czechoslovakia:** Vencel; Dobias, Jurkemik, Birco, Pivarnik, Gogh, Moder (Gajdusek), Panenka, Pollak, Masny, Nehoda

**Attendance:** 18,000

**September 21, 1977 at Hampden Park**
**SCOTLAND (2) 3 (Jordan, Hartford, Dalglish)**
**CZECHOSLOVAKIA (0) 1 (Gajdusek)**

**Scotland:** Rough; Jardine, Forsyth, McQueen, McGrain, Rioch, Hartford, Dalglish, Masson, Jordan, Johnstone

**Czechoslovakia:** Michalik; Daurik, Josef Capkovic, Dvorak, Gogh, Dobias (Gallis), Pollak, Gajdusek, Moder (Knapp), Masny, Nehoda

**Attendance:** 85,000

**October 12, 1977 at Liverpool**
**WALES (0) 0**
**SCOTLAND (0) 2 (Masson pen., Dalglish)**

**Wales:** Davies; Thomas (R), Jones (J), Phillips, Jones (D), Mahoney, Flynn, Yorath, Sayer, Thomas (M), Toshack

**Scotland:** Rough; Jardine (Buchan), McQueen, Forsyth, Donachie, Masson, Hartford, Macari, Dalglish, Jordan, Johnston

**Attendance:** 50,850

**November 16, 1977 at Prague**
**CZECHOSLOVAKIA (1) 1 (Nehoda)**
**WALES (0) 0**

**Czechoslovakia:** Hruska; Barmos, Fiala (Prokes), Vojacek, Gogh, Blisky, Gajdusek, Jarusek, Krospa, Masny (Rozan), Nehoda

**Wales:** Davies; Thomas (R), Jones (J), Mahoney, Jones (D), Phillips, Nardiello, Flynn, Yorath, Toshack, Thomas (M) (Deacy)

**Attendance:** 25,000

Argentina '78

# THE NEW IMAGE

know that we are tops at our jobs, and that feeling creates a mutual respect. For instance, Graham doesn't know anything about music, but he is interested. He is very much like me, and we both know how to handle people. Graham doesn't just manage the team — he goes out to the people of Watford, and asks them to come and see us play. When we will be in the Third Division, we shall buy some Second Division players, and our target is a place in Division One! Yes, my dream is First Division football for Watford in a 40,000 all-seater stadium — this, our triumphant promotion year, is just an important step in the right direction."

*"What is your relationship with the players?"*

"I used to have a better relationship with them when I was just a Director. I loved to go into the dressing room, be 'one of the boys'. But Graham insists that they must call me 'Mr Chairman'. I feel awkward now when I see the players. Not because I am Elton John, but because I am the 'Chairman'. In fact, my "superstar" status is rapidly disappearing vis-a-vis my football activities. People who initially thought that I was just playing at it, now realise that I have to be taken seriously. When I answer the 'phone, I say — the Chairman of Watford Football Club speaking!"

*"What's the difference between your attachment to Los Angeles Aztecs and to Watford?"*

There is no comparison. I was asked to join Aztecs as a publicity gimmick for them. It didn't cost me a cent, I have no feeling for them, although, of course, I wish them well. But if I am in, let's say, Honolulu, I would stay-up all night to find out, on the 'phone, how Watford did against Barnsley".

*"You could go out and buy Trevor Francis or Kevin Keegan tomorrow for Watford. Aren't you tempted to use your money that way?"*

"Not at all. As it is, clubs ask inflated prices for players from us, because they know that we have a rich Chairman. That's not the way I operate. The club must be run efficiently — at a profit if possible. In England, football is still living in the last century in many ways. I want to change that, using modern selling techniques, and providing first-rate entertainment. Look at the average club posters "advertising" — if that's the right word — their future games. They are terribly dull, stereotyped. Forget it! We are doing everything here a little bit better, using imagination, professionalism. That's why I must have the best people around me. Graham Taylor, Bertie Mee, who did the Double with Arsenal and is now our "elder statesman", Ron Pickering, who is looking after our development schemes, and now Eddie Plumley, who will be in charge of realising our grand illusion — the new sports complex!"

*"How would you solve the problem of hooliganism?"*

"I feel very strongly about that. Thank goodness, we have no serious problems at Watford, but still I often go on the public address asking them to behave. These people are not real supporters — they are just looking for somewhere to go to release their surplus energies. When I give a concert, 75,000 people wear 'Elton John' T-shirts, but there is no aggro."

*"If Rod Stewart played next door at the same time there might be some".*

"Perhaps you are right, but rivalry must stay on the right side of lunacy!"

*"What is your opinion of the standard of football in this country?"*

## Passionless

"I saw the game against W. Germany, and I couldn't understand what the fuss was about. Neither side produced a player who excited me. It was all so "passionless", academic, a chess-game between opposing managers. Unfortunately, the British tend to be apathetic. Our general attitude is not positive enough — the managers worry about their jobs, so they play safe! I have seen a great deal of top-class football, but only Nottingham Forest, and at times Liverpool have impressed me".

*"America?"*

"Soccer will be the second most popular sport there after American football. They are miles ahead of us in merchandizing, packaging the game. Within a few years, they will be very, very strong — a world power in soccer!"

*"How do you see the future?"*

"Watford F.C. is my main concern, and I am extremely optimistic. I suppose later I would like to have a say in the running of the game, and might aspire for a place on the League or the F.A. Management Committee. But we must realise that we haven't got a divine right to attract people to our grounds. We have to create a meeting place for the whole community, a complex which can be used every night of the week. Our present stadiums are anachronistic white elephants, or more correctly — dirty, ill-kempt white elephants!"

He is, of course, right — it was a highly enjoyable 'session' with the Superstar millionaire, who prefers to be known as the Chairman of a Fourth Division football club in industrial Hertfordshire. I think, after all, I shall buy one of those "I like Elton" badges, and pin it on the lapel of one of my conservative double-breasted suits.

**Elton John (right) with fellow supporter Rod Stewart — both men share a passionate love of football.**

# KITCHEN SINKER

Peter Kitchen, who helped dig Chelsea's FA Cup grave with two goals, relaxes with his wife Susan in the garden of their Epping home.

## by BRIAN GLANVILLE

**HAS anybody seen a better goal this season than the first that Peter Kitchen scored for Orient at Chelsea in the Fifth Round of the Cup? He got the ball on the right from yet another of Orient's black right winger, Godfrey, ran at and roasted Ron Harris, danced round Droy, beat Ian Britton for good measure, and left footed the ball past Peter Bonetti. Yet until last summer, Kitchen had been scoring his twenty odd goals a season in the obscurity of the Fourth Division for Doncaster, and he'd just turned 26 at the time of those splendid goals.**

A Yorkshireman from Mexborough, which once produced the Arsenal and England left-back Lionel Smith — Kitchen had never heard of him — he tells me he did not leave school until he was 18; and thereby might well hang a tale. He did not, that is to say, go straight to a professional club as a fifteen-year-old apprentice, there to be ground down to the customary pattern. And when he did join Doncaster Rovers, it was to find an exceedingly sympathetic manager and trainer in the shape of Stan Anderson, the old Sunderland and England right-half, and John Quigley, once a clever little inside-forward with Nottingham Forest.

Kitchen says that he had been having a frustrating time against the tight marking of Ron Harris until he scored his first goal, but he strongly believes in running at people in the penalty area, pointing out logically enough that if they try to tackle you they are in danger of conceding a penalty. He gets plenty of kicks, he says, but in the penalty box they are likely to prove expensive to the kicker. It all goes to show that George Petchey was splendidly right to buy him, and that he was also right when he said, on being sacked, that he left behind the best balanced team he had ever had, at Orient.

Petchey has done pretty well at Millwall, too. When he went there in December they had won a single match out of the last eighteen. But more of that later. To return to Kitchen, he says that a number of clubs came to look at him in his Doncaster days, but none of them was prepared to take a gamble.

Shades of such players as Peter Ward and Duncan Mackenzie. When Mackenzie was a youngster at Nottingham Forest, he certainly wasn't encouraged to be a . . . Tony Woodcock. Far from it. He wanted to beat people, but the coaches insisted that he play one-twos. Mackenzie wouldn't have any of it, with the result that he was twice farmed out to Mansfield Town. Only on his third spell with Forest was he allowed to express himself; and a splendid run in the F.A. Cup followed. Peter Ward, picked up for peanuts by Peter Taylor from Burton Albion, has showed that anybody who can infiltrate defences in the Third Division can do it in the Second, too.

Thus there are several morals to be drawn from Kitchen's success. One, that it's sometimes a positive advantage not to be snapped up early by a League club. Two, that individualism in the penalty area pays. The others you'll readily draw for yourselves.

* * *

**Hector Nunez, Uruguayan manager of the astonishing Rayo Vallecano team, is an interesting figure, Montevideo born, a former player for Nacional, he has been knocking around in Spain as a player then a coach for the best part of two decades and this is his second season with the little Madrid club, but it is his first ever in the First Division and he has never had such remarkable success before. He's a man who loves and lives for football; he says he spends hours brooding over a defeat and wondering why his team has lost; hours brooding over a victory and wondering why they have won. He believes in fines; and once even fined himself heavily for turning up late to training.**

One thing he abhors is smoking. His players are limited to a single cigarette after meals; or woe betide them. He raves about his own men, says that Tanco is the best stopper in the Spanish League, Anero the best full-back, Gonzalez "a forward who is worth two."

He says that for him, football is the barometer. If his football is going well everything goes well. "If one of my players is suffering, I too suffer. At bottom, I think a manager should be everything for the player; father, judge and friend."

"Chris" Landaburu, the only player he's ever bought in his career, says Nunez, is having an excellent season, has scored twice directly from corners, and is under review by Ladislao Kubala for the coming World Cup, in which he might be well advised to draw on the fresh new vital talent of Rayo.

Interestingly, Nunez won't take his players off to those never ending training camps, the concentrations or retirements, so beloved of Latin clubs. "Why should I?" he says, insisting that a professional should be conscious of his responsibilities, that Northern European teams don't drag their players off, like that.

* * *

**By the time you read this, you will have a better idea than I have now of whether Millwall will escape the doom of relegation to Division Three. If they don't, it certainly will not be the fault of George Petchey, brusquely and in my view mistakenly given the boot at Orient early this season, instantly successful when he took over late last year at The Den, where the team had had one measly victory in its last eighteen games.**

Petchey took the team to Bisham Abbey for a couple of training sessions so that he could get to know them, was a bit unlucky to see them lose their first match to Brighton, then went into an amazingly successful streak which saw them move into the last eight of the Cup, and conquer Southampton on their own ground. This week I went to see them, alas, they had what he considered their worst game of the time he'd been with them, drawing very fortunately at home to a Burnley side which certainly seemed to have no business down there at the bottom. Indeed, had it not been for the magnificent goalkeeping of the 20-year-old Nicky Johns, Burnley would have won in a canter.

Three days later, however, the team bounced back splendidly. Petchey boldly put a 16-year-old centre-forward, Mehmet, into the side for the local derby game away to Charlton, and Mehmet rewarded him by setting up the second goal, for Phil Walker, in a surprising 2-0 win.

* * *

One of the strangest stories of the season concerns a match played between the customers of two bars, in Rome. A few minutes from the end, the Bar Miki was beating the Bar Acquario 4-0, all four goals having been scored, on a little pitch on the periphery, by their centre-forward. Suddenly, shots rang out. All the players ran off the field; only the bold referee remained. Afterwards, he maintained that the shots were directed not at himself but at the over prolific centre-forward. About a dozen spectators ran on to the field, two of them armed with pistols.

One of them approached the referee, told him to kneel down, then to lick his boots. From this indignity, however, he was saved when both the malefactors, shouting, "Let's go!" took to their heels. It could never happen on Hackney Marshes, I hope.

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# STAR TR
# AT BAR

## by Keir Radnedge

**IF THE name of the Futbol Club Barcelona stands for anything in soccer, it must be the legend of the vastly-rich club able to pluck players from anywhere on earth, no matter what the cost.**

For Barcelona, the soccer standard-bearers of the Spanish province of Catalonia, have never been an organisation to depend modestly on bringing up their own players through the youth squads.

Their fans have grown up with a tradition, the maintenance of which they demand perpetually, of a team playing before them containing some of soccer's star names.

And in the days before the Spanish federation clamped down on imports in the early 1960s, this policy was taken to such extremes under the controversial and flamboyant Helenio Herrera that at one stage Barsa boasted 20 internationals from seven different countries!

Above all that was the 'Hungarian era' — a time when so much of their attacking play was dominated by the great Ladislav Kubala, Sandor Kocsis and Zoltan Czibor. Now Barcelona are coming to the end of the 'Dutch era' — and their recent visits to England to face Ipswich then Aston Villa in the UEFA Cup provided British fans with a last opportunity to watch a fading team in action.

As I write Barcelona are second in the Spanish league, having reduced Real Madrid's seven-point lead at the top to only three. But it is no secret that Johan Cruyff remains determined to retire at the season's end, and that coach Rinus Michels may well be on his way then, too.

And that would leave only Johan Neeskens as Barcelona look for the bricks and mortar to rebuild after the Dutch domination of the club had come tumbling around their ears.

It's appropriate that Barcelona should have been swayed by so much foreign influence, since they were founded by a Swiss, Hans Gamper, back in 1899. Though, true to Spanish form, Gamper's name is perpetuated in a pre-season tournament organised by Barcelona under the name 'Juan Gamper,' translated as far as possible!

Founder members of what is now the Real Federacion Espanola de Futbol, Barcelona finished runners-up to the Bilbao amalgam of Vizcaya, in the first knock-out Cup competition held in Madrid in 1902. Their first victory didn't arrive until 1910, when they beat Espanol Madrid 3-2 in the much-despised Castilian capital, but it was less than a major triumph since a split in the FEF meant many clubs had that year taken part in a separate, breakaway championship.

At first the FEF, based in Madrid, generally arranged for the Cup finals to be played in their own city, but after the split had been healed a change of policy to involve the regions was evolved, and Barcelona thus had the opportunity to win the Cup in 1912 and 1913 in front of their own fans.

First time they beat Gimnastica Madrid 2-0, then San Sebastian 2-1. There was then a lull of six years before Barcelona again returned to the final, but then their 5-2 defeat by Arenas Guecho in Madrid heralded a 10-year stretch they would dominate.

Barcelona won the Cup in 1920, 1922, 1925, 1926 and 1928 — though it took them three attempts in 1928 before they finally disposed of Real Sociedad de San Sebastian in Santander. The final and the first replay were drawn 1-1, but finally Barsa won the second replay 3-1 with goals from the inside forward trio of Jose Sastra, Jose Samitier, and Angel Arocha.

**Samitier was one of Spanish football's outstanding personalities. Born in Barcelona in 1902 he played at centre forward and sometimes at half back for them until being sold for the phenomenal fee of £4,000 to Real Madrid in 1932-33. The first major footballer to lay claim to a career record of 1,000 goals, he played 21 times for Spain and later coached Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and was technical secretary of Real in the mid-1950s.**

Barcelona's Cup exploits made them obvious favourites when, in 1928-29, Spain's first league championship was organised. They didn't let their fans down. In 1929 they were champions, and in 1930 runners-up. Then, in 1932 and 1936, before the Civil War put an end to soccer, they finished runners-up in the Cup — first losing 3-2 to Bilbao, then 2-1 to Madrid in a remarkable game in Valencia.

Despite having utility man Domingo Balmanya — much later coach to Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and Spain — injured for much of the game, Barcelona forced the pace for the whole of the second half after Madrid had taken an early two-goal lead.

This time they were denied by the brilliance of a man once on their staff — legendary goalkeeper Ricardo Zamora. Zamora was now well past his best, but in what was to prove his last match he performed miracles. Barcelona pulled one goal back through centre forward Jose Escola, but Real were still 2-1 ahead when Barsa right winger Martin Vantolra struck a shot two minutes from time which seemed a certain goal.

Somehow Zamora leapt across his goal to beat the shot away. Madrid had won the Cup, Barcelona were the most gallant of losers, Vantolra the most astonished of forwards. Years later he would laughingly attribute to that save the reason why he emigrated to Mexico, for whom his son would play in the 1970 World Cup.

Escola and Balmanya returned after the Civil War to take up their careers in the tumbledown Las Corts stadium, and another survivor of the 1936 team was inside forward or half back Jose Raich. An intelligent player, still fondly remembered by Barsa's older fans, his one appearance for Spain was poor reward for an outstanding league career.

Raich was still in the Barcelona team in 1942, when they won the Cup again, beating Bilbao 4-3 in a hair-raising final in Madrid. In 1945 and 1946 they finished champions then runners-up in the league, and were now about to embark on 13 marvellous years in which they rivalled hated Castilians Real Madrid for the domination not only of Spain, but of Europe and the world.

From 1948 to 1961 Barcelona won almost everything in sight. They won the league six times, the Cup five times, the old Fairs Cup for its first two editions in 1958 and 1960, the Latin Cup twice, and finally peaked just before the final of the 1961 Champions' Cup.

The initial impetus came from the signing of Kubala, one of the greatest footballers of our time.

Barcelona, pictured before their UEFA Cup match at Ipswich earlier this season

# RADITION
# RCELONA

**Barcelona already had an extremely useful centre forward in Cesar Rodriguez when Kubala arrived, so he soon became a roving, scheming inside forward. Not only skilful, but also extremely strong and hard to dispossess, Kubala was a fair player, but a determined one. And he was not among the favourites of the manager whom Barcelona took on in 1958 — Helenio Herrera.**

HH, a naturalised Frenchman born in Argentina and whose greatest successes would be achieved in Italy with Internazionale, was determined to be the dominant personality in the beautiful new Nou Camp stadium which Barcelona built to hold 90,000 crowds late in the 1950s. Accordingly he and Kubala crossed swords a number of times. Undoubtedly the Press built up their disagreements into a more vicious feud than existed, but Herrera's ideas were not those of Kubala.

He found the chanting and indoctrination before big matches tasteless and when Herrera left him out of the team beaten by Real Madrid in the 1960 Champions' Cup semi-finals there was hell to pay. Barcelona's fans, for whom Kubala could do no wrong, went wild, and Herrera was instantly dismissed.

Reinstated, Kubala inspired the 1960-61 win over Madrid, and was brilliant in the Champions' Cup final so unluckily lost 3-2 to Benfica.

After that, the bubble burst. Kubala scored a hat-trick in a testimonial game against Nottingham Forest and retired to become player-manager with Espanol, then Zurich, in the United States too, and has now taken Spain into the World Cup Finals.

Brilliant ex-Coruna inside left Luis Suarez was sold to Inter, and key defenders such as goalkeeper Antonio Ramallets, Sigfrido Gracia, Juan Segarra and Jesus Garay all went over the hill together. Right half Martin Verges, Koesis and Brazilian spearhead Evaristo stayed on for a few more years, and Barcelona regained the Fairs Cup in 1966.

But domestic success was badly missed.

A succession of managers came and went and still the league eluded them, though they were runners-up in 1962, 1964, 1967, 1968 and 1973 and won the Cup in 1963, 1968 and 1971.

Finally, after a number of Spaniards had failed in the hot seat, Barcelona reverted to tradition and looked abroad, taking on former West Bromwich and Ajax manager, Vic Buckingham.

Sadly ill-health prevented Buckingham seeing out his contract, but before he left he gave new president Agustin Montal — whose father had also once been president — this advice: "If the Spanish federation let foreigners in again, there's a boy I put into the first team at Ajax . . . get him, whatever the cost. His name is Johan Cruyff."

In the summer of 1971 Montal couldn't do quite that. The bar on foreigners remained. So he arranged for the next best thing, and signed up 43-year-old Rinus Michels, a former Dutch international inside forward, who had just guided Ajax to their first European title.

"I must have time," he told Montal. Montal gave him a three-year contract, and promised he could see it through. In his first season Barcelona were fourth. In his second they were runners-up. Then . . . the FEF cleared the way for each club to take on two foreign players.

Barcelona went to Peru for one, Hugo Sotil, and to Argentina for another, in Juan Carlos Heredia. And, secretly, they opened negotiations for Cruyff. Club and player met in Coruna while Ajax were on a pre-season tour. They emerged saying that talks had broken down, and that there was no possibility of a deal.

In fact, they had agreed to the £922,000 transfer, but now had to persuade the Dutch and Spanish federations to bend their rules to allow Cruyff to move after the season had begun and the deadline for registrations had expired.

The Spanish federation were only too ready to agree, but the Dutch KNVB were reluctant, and only caved in when Cruyff threatened to retire. At once capacity crowds of 90,000 packed Nou Camp to see Cruyff even in friendlies, and the massive transfer cost was soon recouped. In the league Cruyff took Barcelona in six months from the relegation zone to the championship.*

**With six weeks to go they were unbeatable at the top, and on the way they inflicted the most crushing of humiliations on Real, winning 5-0 in Madrid. Only in the Cup Final did they fall, losing 4-0 to Madrid in a game Cruyff and Sotil could not play because they were foreigners.**

Also, Cruyff was about to lead Holland into the World Cup Final against West Germany in Munich. Then, a World Cup hero and soon to become European Footballer of the Year for a record third time, Cruyff returned to Spain determined to repeat his European club triumphs with Barcelona.

He had won three winners' medals with Ajax, but the nearest he got with Barcelona was the 1975 semi-finals. Even with the temporary reinforcement of Brazil's Mario Marinho, and the £350,000 signing of John Neeskens, also from Ajax, Barcelona's erratic skills weren't quite a match for the determined professionalism of Leeds.

Barcelona were already past their peak.

In 1975 they finished third in the league, in 1976 runners-up, and last year just one point behind champions Atletico Madrid. But the scars left by the nine-month reign of German coach Hennes Weisweiler — he followed Michels in 1975 and was replaced by the Dutchman again a year later — and controversy over millionaire skipper Cruyff overshadowed their displays on the pitch.

Cruyff's problems concerned his unfortunate habit to talking too much to referees. He was sent off in a friendly and several times in the league. Neeskens was slow to settle in, and the Barcelona forwards missed the skills of Sotil, displayed by Neeskens's arrival.

Michels had to recast the defence after players such as goalkeeper Salvador Sadurni, and defenders Joaquin Rife and Gallego went over the top of the hill, and his strict disciplinarianism meant rows with Carlos Rexach (who remains) and Marcial Pina (who left for Atletico Madrid).

That's not to say Barcelona are any less star-studded than before. If goalkeeper Mora and Artola are not in the Ramallets class, then there are plenty of internationals in front of them.

Right back Jose Antonio Ramos was signed from neighbours Espanol 20 months ago, saving them from going bust, and stopper Migueli and sweeper Olmo are also in Kubala's World Cup squad. Migueli hails from Ceuta, North Africa, like Real Madrid's Pirri, and it was for Pirri that Olmo substituted after only 14 minutes of that fraught 1-0 World Cup win in Yugoslavia. His first touch of the ball was to clear off the goal-line!

At left back is Spanish international Jesus De La Cruz, back in favour since the Uruguayan Alfredo Amarillo had a row with Cruyff.

In midfield Neeskens has missed three months this season with a knee ligament injury, but there is also World Cup man Juan Manuel Asensi to rely on, as well as young Jose Sanchez, and utility defender Enrique Costas.

Up front Michels has an embarrassment of riches. Cruyff is irreplaceable, but around him his partners vary between Heredia and fellow Argentine Rafael Zuviria (signed from Santander last summer), as well as Spaniards in Manolo Clares, Rexach and Esteban Vigo Benitez.

*Heredia was loaned to Elche while acquiring dual nationality.

**FIRST TEAM SQUAD**

| | Age | Prev. club | Nation. | Caps |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Goal:** | | | | |
| Pedro MORA | 29 | Elche | Spanish | — |
| Pedro ARTOLA | 30 | Real Sociedad | Spanish | — |
| **Defence:** | | | | |
| Jose Antonio RAMOS | 25 | Espanol | Spanish | 2 |
| Miguel Bernardo 'MIGUELI' | 26 | Cadiz | Spanish | 11 |
| Antonio OLMO | 24 | — | Spanish | 1 |
| Alfredo AMARILLO | 25 | Valladolid | Uruguayan | — |
| Jose Gomez 'JUANJO' | 27 | Salamanca | Spanish | — |
| Jesus DE LA CRUZ | 30 | Granada | Spanish | 4 |
| Enrique COSTAS | 31 | Celta de Vigo | Spanish | 10 |
| **Midfield:** | | | | |
| Johan NEESKENS | 26 | Ajax | Dutch | 38 |
| Juan Manuel ASENSI | 28 | Elche | Spanish | 23 |
| Jose SANCHEZ | 22 | — | Spanish | — |
| Jorge CARRENO | 24 | — | Spanish | — |
| Jose MACIZO | 24 | — | Spanish | — |
| **Forwards:** | | | | |
| Carlos REXACH | 31 | — | Spanish | 13 |
| Rafael ZUVIRIA | 27 | Santander | Agentine | 2 |
| ESTEBAN Vigo Benitez | 23 | Malaga | Spanish | — |
| Johan CRUYFF | 30 | Ajax | Dutch | 56 |
| Manolo CLARES | 30 | Castellon | Spanish | — |
| Miguel MIR | 23 | — | Spanish | — |
| Francisco FORTES | 27 | — | Spanish | — |
| Juan Carlos HEREDIA | 25 | Elche | Argentine | 4 |

**CLUB RECORDS**

**Champions' Cup:** Runners-up 1961.
**Fairs' Cup:** Winners 1958, 1960, 1966. Runners-up 1962 (Won original trophy in 1971 play-off with last winners, Leeds).
**Latin Cup:** Winners 1949, 1952.
**Spanish League:** Winners 1929, 1945, 1948, 1949, 1952, 1953, 1959, 1960, 1974. Runners-up: 1930, 1946, 1954, 1955, 1962, 1964, 1967, 1968, 1973, 1976, 1977. (Winners 9 times, runners-up 12 times).
**Spanish Cup:** Winners 1910, 1912, 1913, 1920, 1922, 1925, 1926, 1928, 1942, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1957, 1959, 1963, 1968, 1971. Runners-up: 1902, 1919, 1932, 1936, 1954, 1976 (Winners 17 times, runners-up 6 times).

West Germany, left to right: Berti Vogts, Sepp Maier, Rolf Ruessmann, Hans Georg Schwarzenbeck, Herbert Nuemann, Karl Heinz Rummenigge, Rudiger Abramczik, Rainer Bonhof, Bernd Hoelzenbein, Herbert Zimmermann, Heinz Flohe.

# NIGHT OF F FOR WORL D

**News from West Germany by Arthur Rotmil**

WEST GERMANY'S experimental team gained a hard earned 2-1 win over England in Munich, but the overall impression was one of disappointment. Late team changes, the loss of key players, injuries to vital men during the match combined to make it a night of frustration and little glory for the world champions.

It is true that they had the better chances — when Rummenigge hit a post, before England had scored. Other German efforts also went close. On the other hand the visitors, who displayed competent team work, can point to being unlucky in that their advantage was overhauled by two goals in the last ten minutes. Incidentally, most German reporters claim that Pearson fouled Russmann when scoring, by supporting himself on the stopper!

Taking a broader view one must emphasise the fact that West Germany's manager Helmut Schön had no intention of fielding his best side, much as the game was billed as a clash of the giants with prestige at stake. Schön's predominant thought is to build a team for the World Cup.

## Flu victims

Only in attack did the *Bundestrainer* decide to use his best men — but, alas, his principal weapon, centre forward Klause Fischer (11 goals in nine internationals), cried off with 'flu, which incidentally also confined to bed Herr Schön! His experiment in defence didn't come off. Georg Schwarzenbeck (whose last international dated back 15 months!), asked to play *libero*, because he had done so for Bayern recently, proved only that he is still a very good stopper, which he always was, but since Manfred Kaltz has lost form it was perhaps expected that someone else will be given the chance to step into the role of Beckenbauer.

The great Franz meanwhile will not, after all, be playing in Argentina, because the Germans could not risk to reinstate him in their rebuilt side at the last moment. Beckenbauer's club New York Cosmos was only prepared to release him for the duration of the world series.

At left back the now established Bernhard Dietz was asked to stand down against England, so that the improving Herbert Zimmermann (Cologne) could be tried. The loss of Fischer was bad enough, but worse was to follow after 34 minutes play, when the chief schemer Heinz Flohe left the field with a groin strain. And when in the second half his club mate and new cap Herbert Neumann (24) also departed injured, the German midfield was virtually non-existent as an "engine room".

Thus it was left to Ronnie Worm to pull the chestnuts out of the fire. This 24-year-old from MSV Duisburg — who has represented his country at every conceivable level — could look back on a truly amazing 24 hours: In the B-international at Augsburg he came on as substitute and scored Germany's goal in the 1-2 defeat.

Next day he was again called up late in the game to replace the struggling Hölzenbein at centre forward. Worm obliged with a goal to make it 1-1 and Bonhof fired in a free kick round a defensive wall (punished for not retreating 10 yards) to make it 2-1.

England's team earned praise in the German media, but understandably though, the majority of local observers were more concerned with the inadequacies of their own side, less than 100 days from Argentina.

The injuries to Flohe and Neumann shocked Cologne the League leaders, at the time when they were preparing for the crucial *Bundesliga* clash with Borussia Mönchengladbach, which incidentally ended 1-1. It does look like the championship will be decided in a straight duel between Cologne and Borussia. Some experts predict a "double" for Cologne, who are clear favourites to win the DFB Cup; the final v. Fortuna Düsseldorf is due on April 15.

The Rhinelanders have been more consistent this season and the systematic work of manager Hennes Weisweiler is obviously beginning to bear fruit. Goalkeeper Schmacher has never played

Herbert Neumann of FC Cologne.

England, left to right: Trevor Brooking, Ray Wilkins, Mick Mills, Steve Coppell, Phil Neal, Peter Barnes, Kevin Keegan, Dave Watson, Stuart Pearson, Ray Clemence, Emlyn Hughes.

# FRUSTRATION
# L D CHAMPIONS

better and the defensive block of Konopka, Gerber (the best libero in Germany right now) Strack and Zimmermann (played against England in the A-team), is most reliable.

In midfield the current internationals Flohe and Neumann, supported by the former international Cullmann, form the best trio of schemers in the country. But up front Dieter Müller, who was scoring goals and topped the *Bundesliga* scorers list, has unfortunately suffered a knee injury and will probably undergo an operation on a cartilage, which could put him out for the rest of the season.

This is a bad blow for Cologne's championship chances, moreover as of the wing forwards the Belgian Van Gool has lacked consistency and the Japanese Okudera is physically not tough enough to cope with the heavy programme. It may be that the club will have to look next season for replacements in attack.

## Acclimatisation

Borussia Mönchengladbach on the other hand has really made a lucky "find" in 24-year-old Ewald Lienen. He came from Arminia Bielefeld for 650,000 Marks (£160,000) and after an initial period of acclimatisation found his feet in Borussia's forward line at outside left and was even picked for the B-international v. England, coming on as a substitute in Augsburg. Borussia's former international, the famous Jupp Heynckes, is now just a reserve.

Borussia also signed another Danish forward, 19-year-old Steen Thychosen from BK Vejle. He will join his compatriots Carsten Nielsen and Allan Simonsen, but will not be eligible to play in the *Bundesliga* till next season.

Borussia have always fared well with their Danish imports. Ulrik Le Fevre stayed three years (1969-72), before joining FC Bruges, whilst Henning Jensen spent four years with the club (1972-76) eventually leaving for Real Madrid. Both are brilliant forwards and this tradition is carried on by the little Simonsen, recently voted European "Footballer of the Year" for 1977.

The champions have now fixed dates for the meeting with Boca Juniors (Argentina) for the unofficial world club championship (after Liverpool had pulled out). On March 21 the Gladbacher were due to play in Buenos Aires with the second leg in the autumn.

The national team's goalkeeper Sepp Maier, who celebrated his 80th cap v. England, had earlier reached an incredible land mark of his career. He had played his 400th consecutive match in the *Bundesliga*. This means that the popular Sepp, West Germany's reigning "Footballer of the Year", has not missed a championship game since the 20th August 1966! In the same match his club colleague, the famous Gerd Müller played his 400th *Bundesliga* game for Bayern, but not in succession.

A few weeks earlier Berti Vogts, the national team's captain, had also played in his 400th championship match for Borussia Mönchengladbach.

FC Schalke have also engaged a Scandinavian player: midfielder Lennart Larsson (23) from Halmstad BK, who holds ten caps for Sweden and cost £80,000.

New problems for the club management created the national team's outside right Rüdiger Abramczik. He refused to sign a new contract because he feels he is underpaid. Interesting footnote to his demands: Abramczik earned up till now £30,000 a year — but this is the lowest salary paid to any international player in Germany! It was thought that Schalke's board will offer their talented forward at least double his present wages to keep him.

## Links well

Schalke's new coach Ulli Maslo, who took over from the unhappy Friedel Rausch, is certainly determined that Abramczik, who links so well with the marvellous striker Fischer, should stay. Fischer too, has pleaded with his teammate to remain in Gelsenkirchen — but he can afford to stay, he earns £70,000 a year!

Meanwhile, at the Hamburger SV, there were better prospects for Kevin Keegan remaining with the club. The recently appointed general manager Günter Netzer apparently intends to keep the English star forward, after many rumours and other half truths had emerged, in those Press reports, which are more conscious of improving the paper's circulation, than with the actual facts.

The recent setbacks on the playing fields have cast deep shadows over Hamburg who clearly cannot afford to part with any players just at present and that includes Keegan. Which is bad news for England! Because of Hamburg's summer tour of North and South America, they will not be releasing Keegan for England's internationals scheduled for April/May, against Brazil, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Hungary!

Independiente coach Omar Pastoriza, their former half back and organising genius (in which raincoat) with some of the club's reserves.

# Penarol for the 17th time

# Indepe but Talleres deserve

**WHEN is a draw not a draw? When people start fiddling about with the rules. Extra time is all right, but a decision by post match penalties or away goals counting double is all wrong — especially to decide titles, even if the European Cup Winners Cup and other major competitions use the method.**

At least that was the general opinion in Argentina after two good teams, Independiente and Talleres Cordoba, virtually the only two, drew 1-1 on the former's field and again 2-2 in Cordoba four days later. Yet Independiente became national champions because they scored one more goal away. Actually both deserved the title, but there had to be a decision because the winner goes into the Libertadores Cup . . . and it's Independiente again who have already won this trophy six times — much more than any other club.

If Independiente deserved the title, it is because they won it with eight men. After three had been sent off and they were losing 2-1 with 10 minutes to go in the second leg, Bochini scored the equaliser which also gave them that extra away goal. Earlier Independiente had also looked slightly the better team, just as Talleres had been in the first match which only reached a fair conclusion because referee Coerezza "gave" Talleres a penalty (when Luduena threw himself in the area) to make up for the one he earlier gave Independiente when goalkeeper Gibaudo took the ball off Trossero quite legitimately before the latter fell down.

Still, it was only natural that a championship spoilt by the Argentine FA which scheduled it so late in the season when most fans and clubs had lost interest after a longer than ever First Division campaign, spoilt by the clubs which fielded more and more reserves as it went on and spoilt by the players who played their worst in the heat (frequently at walking pace), should also reach an unsatisfactory conclusion . . . and, of course, every club lost money on it, as well as the fans.

But something good came out of it — two finalists playing soccer without close marking and more intent on creating than destroying the opposition's moves. Losing semifinalists Newell's Old Boys played the same type of game which, it is to be hoped, will show the way to others. Perhaps some other clubs could have rivalled them if they cared. First Division champions River Plate and defending national champions Boca Juniors started fielding reserves too soon. A lot was made of the excellent play of Velez Sarsfield's reserves — the club had suspended 10 first teamers over wage claims — and they did play well, but were helped by the lack of enthusiasm from others.

If Talleres had won the title it would have been the first time that a non-First Division club walked off with it and it would have given an incentive to them and other strong provincial clubs to hold on to their good and costly players (for the Libertadores Cup). Talleres, like all other strong provincial clubs not in the First Division, are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their strong squads in their provincial leagues and then just a two-month national championship run in a way and at a time to assure a financial loss.

And it will not get any better as next season's "national" has already been scheduled late again (starting November 4) with unprofitable midweek games. But it may get worse, because First Division clubs (who have always been against this championship) want it further reduced and this would effectively kill off clubs like Talleres. Meanwhile the 1978 First Division championship was due to start on March 5, leaving a close season of just six weeks.

Earlier the semi finals between the four national championship section winners had also been very close. Independiente and Estudiantes de La Plata drew both home and away legs 1-1 and only two Independiente goals in extra time after the second leg at home put them into the final. Half Bochini was their outstanding player in both games. Estudiantes had to attack when a goal down in both legs and, thriving on tight defence and counter attack, they were placed in an unaccustomed role.

The Talleres-Newell's semi finals were a lot better with both teams playing attacking soccer without rigid marking. Talleres made it 1-1 from a doubtful penalty after Newell's had had a man sent off, but the result was fair. In the second leg, Talleres — apt to play better away — scored through Bravo five minutes from the end to win 1-0 with the midfield control of internationals Luduena and Valencia an important factor, as it was also to be in the finals.

Independiente's Norberto Outes was the national championship's top scorer with 13 goals (jointly with Letanu of Estudiantes) and he was also the season's top scorer with 44, adding the 21 he netted in the First Division.

Larrosa 20 games, Trossero 20 games and Galvan 15 games were the heavy suspensions handed to the three Independiente players sent off in the second leg of the national championship final for protesting and pushing the referee around . . . and it could have been worse if Independiente coach Omar Pastoriza, their former outstanding midfield player in Libertadores Cup winning teams, had not moved in to quieten his players down.

### URUGUAY CHAMPIONS NOT IN LIBERTADORES CUP

**NACIONAL, after winning both the First Division and Major League last season, will not represent Uruguay in the Libertadores Cup, because of a set of intricate rules. The six teams which obtained most points in the**

**WHILE Uruguay's Peñarol will be taking part in the Libertadores Cup for the 17th time in this year's 18th edition of the South American club championship, Uruguay's other representatives, Danubio, will be taking part for the first time.**

**At press time the Brazilian and Bolivian championships had not finished so that the clubs from these countries were not yet known, but the draw for this year's first round groups is as follows:**

**Group 1: River Plate and Independiente (Argentina), Nacional and Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Ecuador). Group 2: Alianza Lima and Sporting Cristal (Peru), Bolivian champions and vice champions. Group 3: Union Española and Palestino (Chile), Brazilian champions and vice champions. Group 5: Cerro Porteño and Libertad (Paraguay), Portuguesa and Estudiantes (Venezuela). Group 4: Peñarol and Danubio (Uruguay), Junior Branquilla and Deportivo Cali (Colombia).**

**As usual group winners go into the semifinals (after playing each other home and away for points) together with last year's cup winners, Boca Juniors of Argentina. The semi-final is played in two groups of three teams and the winners will qualify for the two-legged final.**

**There was some discussion as to whether the tournament should be postponed until after the World Cup, but representatives from Argentina and Brazil, whose clubs would be at a disadvantage by not being able to line up their internationals before the World Cup, made no moves in this respect. Thus Argentina's River Plate and Independiente (with four players each in the current World Cup squad) will have to play their hardest games away to Ecuador's Nacional and Liga Deportiva Universitaria without them. Brazil's clubs play their entire first round group against Chile's representatives before the World Cup, but at press time it was of course not known whether they would be handicapped, because neither the clubs nor the Brazilian World Cup party had been chosen.**

**Peru's Alianza Lima and Sporting Cristal, with practically their entire first teams in the World Cup squad, will however not start to play until after the World Cup in group 2.**

# endiente win title e it too

## From ERIC WEIL in Buenos Aires

**tournament qualified for a final round to determine the two cup teams, but in this Nacional gained only four points out of ten to finish fourth.**

As the team to obtain most points during the season they were given another chance to play off for a cup place against runner-up Danubio, but the latter, who had beaten them 2-1 in league play, did it again to become the second small club (outside Peñarol and Nacional) to represent Uruguay in the Cup. (1976 First Division champions Defensor played in the Cup last year).

Final round winners Peñarol, who beat traditional rivals Nacional 1-0 in a rough game in which a player from either side was sent off just before halftime, are Uruguay's other Libertadores Cup representatives.

### PERU: NATIONAL TEAM PLAYERS PREVAIL

**THE teams with most internationals in their ranks prevailed in the lengthy Peruvian season. Alianza Lima, with eight players in the current World Cup squad, and Sporting Cristal (with nine) took first and second place with 52 and 49 points respectively in the six-team final round in which participants carried on with points obtained in the championship earlier.**

But two modest provincial clubs, Melgar from Arequipa and Colegio Nacional Iquitos, finished close behind on 48 and 47 points after both topping the table at times during an interesting season — even if the soccer was mostly poor quality, gates were down and one club, Deportiva Junin, which just failed to make the final round, accused the Peruvian FA of closing their eyes to dope taking by players and payment to referees to throw matches.

### ECUADOR: EASY FOR NACIONAL AGAIN

**NACIONAL, a club sponsored by Ecuador's armed forces and traditionally using no foreign players, easily retained the title in the final round which they started with a points bonus gained by high placings in the season's two championships.**

The runners-up accompanying them into the Libertadores Cup are Liga Deportiva Universitaria who have three Argentines (goalkeeper Carlos Quiroga, half Santiago Rivadevo and forward Ruben Scalise) and a Uruguayan (back Luis de Carlos) in the line-up and are coached by former Argentine World Cup coach Vladislao Cap.

ELSEWHERE . . . The Bolivian 1977 league championship, held up during the season when the strong clubs broke away to form a new league, was still in progress as also the semi final group stage of the Brazilian national championship at press time.

**STANDINGS**

**PERU: National Championship**
(final round final standings)

| | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alianza Lima | 40 | 19 | 14 | 7 | 52 |
| Sporting Cristal | 40 | 19 | 11 | 10 | 49 |
| Melgar | 40 | 17 | 14 | 9 | 48 |
| Col Nac Iquitos | 40 | 16 | 15 | 9 | 47 |
| Coronel Bolognesi | 40 | 15 | 11 | 13 | 41 |
| Universitario | 40 | 13 | 12 | 14 | 38 |

**URUGUAY — Qualifying round for Libertadores Cup:** (final) 1 Peñarol 9 pts; 2 Danubio 7; 3 Wanderers 6; 4 Nacional 4; 5 Defensor, Liverpool (both one game less) 2.

**ECUADOR — National Championship** (final round final standings): 1 Nacional (Quito) 18 pts; 2 Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Quito) 13; 3 Universidad Catolica (Quito) 12; 4 Barcelona (Guayaquil) 11; Deportivo Cuenca, Emelec (Guayaquil) 9.

**BOLIVIA — Major League:** Section A — 1 Oriente Petrolero 9 pts; 2 Wilsterman 7; 3 Car Bolivia 6; 4 Bata, Petrolero 3. Section B — 1 Bolivar 10; 2 The Strongest, Blooming 7; 4 San José 6; 5 Guabira 0.

**Security Argentina style . . . Formula One racing driver and Grand Prix winner Mario Andretti being accompanied off the track in Buenos Aires in January. There were some 6,000 police and army personnel at the track. Will it be like this for the World Cup?**

## International Microscope MALTA

ALTHOUGH Malta have done more than quite well in home games against top quality European opposition, including holding sides like England and West Germany to 1-0 victories, away from home fate has been very unkind to the Maltese game and they have received some real batterings.

In the 1978 World Cup qualifying rounds they were placed in a group with East Germany, Austria and Turkey, and as usual, gave both Austria (who qualified), and East Germany to 1-0 wins in Valetta. Turkey however, probably being more accustomed to playing on poor pitches than the Europeans, managed to beat Malta 3-0.

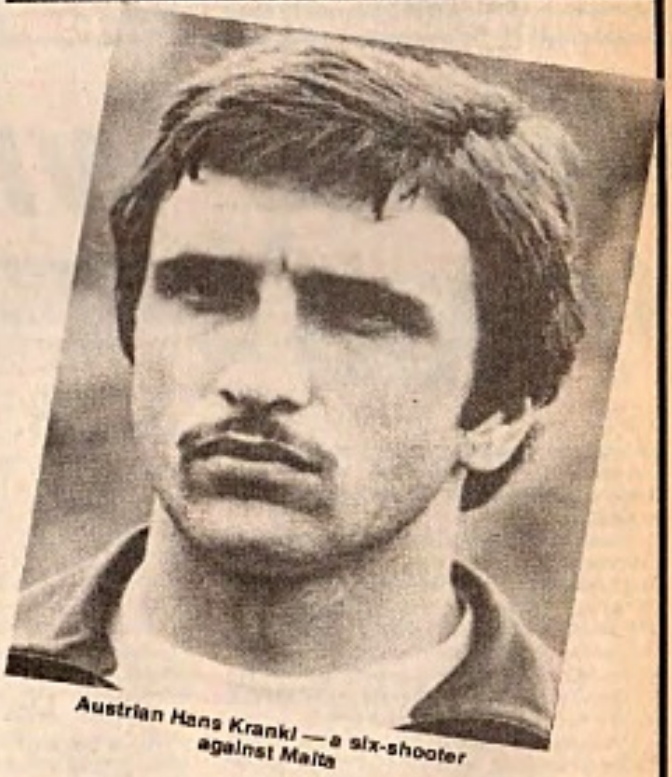
But away from home, Malta was nothing more than a goal target to give players like Austria's Hans Krankl (who shot six past them on his own in Salzbourg) a little extra shooting practice.

Beaten by nine goals to nil away to both Austria and East Germany, there was some speculation about whether or not Malta would take part in the 1980 European Championship.

Despite reports that the Malta FA had decided not to play any more competitive games in the forseeable future, they finally allowed their entry to stand, but there is little doubt that it would be in Malta's best interests to play only friendly matches and pick the opposition.

| | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Goals For | Goals Against |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Algeria | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Austria | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 22 |
| Bulgaria | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| Denmark | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| England | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Greece | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| Germany, East | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 10 |
| Germany, West | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Hungary | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Italy | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Libya | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Luxembourg | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Norway | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Sweden | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| Switzerland | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| Tunisia | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Turkey | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| Totals | 39 | 5 | 6 | 28 | 20 | 101 |

# BATTERING FROM THE BIG GUNS



Austrian Hans Krankl — a six-shooter against Malta

Being only a tiny island with a meagre population, their Football Association is however in something of a cleft stick. Like every other ruling body the world over, the Malta FA needs money to develop the game and above all improve the quality of the playing pitches.

The FA's biggest single form of income is without doubt the proceeds of international matches, and there is every indication that if they did not take part in the big two international tournaments, they would never get teams like England and West Germany to visit them. It is only countries like them with players that are famous the world over, that Malta is able to pull in capacity crowds.

Drop out of the World Cup and the European Championship and their receipts would drop to almost nothing if they only played against countries that would not give them a hammering.

For example, the visits of Libya and Tunisia have passed almost un-noticed on the island, and in 1977 even the visits of Turkey only attracted a crowd of 4,000 in Valetta. That would hardly cover the cost of sending their squad to play the return game in Turkey, let alone give the Maltese FA any of the money they need so badly for development.

Thus, while a large body of opinion within the Association probably does feel that being given a good hiding away from home does their image more harm than good, can hardly be good for the morale of their players, there is no way out of their difficult situation but to keep plugging away, hoping that 'something will turn up'.

Although Malta did not join FIFA until 1960, their Football Association came into being as early as 1900 and for many years, British Servicemen's teams were amongst the strongest in the island.

As the game developed, many British servicemen began to play for clubs like Floriana, La Valetta and Sliema Wanderers but though British servicemen thus made a considerable contribution to the development of the game, their clubs have been completely Maltese since Britain abolished national service for from then on, the standard of play amongst the native born Maltese was generally far higher than that of the servicemen stationed there. The first championship was held as far back as 1910 and won by Floriana, who were six times champions in the 1950's and are always one of the leading contenders for the title.

The FA Cup became a permanent fixture in the Maltese Calendar from 1934 on, with Sliema Wanderers beating Floriana 4-0 in the first final, and repeating the result (by 2-1) in 1935.

Until 1960, Malta was in the strictest terms barred from international matches because they were only affiliated to FIFA through the English FA as were all other colonies. But before independence Malta had already played several games, including a first ever match against Austria in February, 1957 when the visitors only managed to win by 3-2.

If Malta were able to pull out of the big international competitions they should still be able to offer their public some of the world's best teams for with their climate they can, like Cyprus, offer visiting teams good weather for anyone who wants to keep their national team in being during the worst of the European winter.

In practice however, they would probably only get teams from Eastern Europe to meet them, during their winter break for England for example, very rarely wish to play games in February and March when the League and Cup competitions are at their height and thus while the Maltese fans would be denied the chance to see the top players of West Europe, the FA would also suffer financially.

by ERIC BATTY

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

# Wilkins—mediocre or marvel?

"A GAME for the connoisseur," said Ron Greenwood, England's manager, of Ray Wilkins' contribution to the West Germany v England game in Munich, as we flew home. Only five days later, Wilkins was making little or no impact on the replayed Cup tie between Chelsea and Orient just as, it seems, he had made little on the game against Leeds at Elland Road, the previous Saturday. Yet he also received, in Munich, the eulogies of Enzo Bearzot who described him to me, with Peter Barnes, as "one of the two protagonists of the game." Where, then, does the truth lie?

As usual, somewhere in between. There is no doubt that Wilkins did have a superb game against the West Germans, outshining even Trevor Brooking. There is equally little argument that he had a poor, somewhat huffy, game against Orient, setting the unhappy tone by kicking the ball away when a free kick was awarded against Chelsea as early as the opening minute.

In South America, where Wilkins first won the praise of Enzo Bearzot, last summer, there was reason to believe conditions suited him. There was much more room and time. You could dwell on the ball, look up, decide where you were going to play it, where in England, such a self-indulgence would probably leave you flat on your back, and the ball elsewhere. Yet these considerations scarcely held good in Munich. The West Germans may not play at the frantic English pace, but they scarcely stand on ceremony; they tackle hard, fast and keenly.

No; it really does seem that Wilkins is one of those rare players whose best is brought out by international football; a pleasant change indeed from the infinity of players who excel when playing for their clubs but diminish almost to a cypher as soon as they pull on an England jersey (Welshman, by contrast, tend traditionally to surpass themselves.) It can credibly be argued that the truly great player, especially if he be a general, a midfield schemer, can run and should run any game; that against modest opposition, he should be irresistible.

Fair enough. No one would pretend that, at this stage of his precocious career, the 21-year-old Wilkins has a title to greatness. By the same token, it is clearly much easier to play with international players than with somewhat moderate club ones. Thus the paradox of Wilkins may be no paradox at all. To have excelled as he did in West Germany, to have done so well in South America, suggests outstanding qualities.

In a few years, he may well add to them the consistency, the steady authority, that he at present seems to lack. Modesty and dedication, after all, are his in abundance, and he has a pleasing sense of humour.

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MEANWHILE, what of the West Germans? The ludicrously favourable World Cup draw they have somehow managed to obtain for themselves mean that, whatever Poland do or don't do against them when they jointly open the ball in Buenos Aires on June 1, they must surely qualify for the second stage of the World Cup. How far they will progress after that is another matter. My own view, having seen them against England, and having talked to various West German critics, is that the present team isn't to be compared with that of 1974, let alone that of 1972, which for me was one of the finest international sides I have ever seen. It won, you will recall, the European Nations Cup, beating England 3-1 at Wembley, then easily taking care of Belgium in the Antwerp semi-final and Russia in the Final in Brussels.

## Lucky win

What became utterly clear in Munich is that the West Germans are just as heavily dependent on outstanding individuals as anybody else; the Hungarians, for example, in the early 1950s, before they lost Puskas, Kocsis and Czibor. The win over England in the Olympic Stadium was a lucky one, as the Germans themselves conceded; Berti Vogts and Rainer Bonhof even sportingly came to the England dressing-room afterwards to apologise for the dubious refereeing; Bonhof's goal from a free kick was, as Emlyn Hughes put it, a scandal.

Without Klaus Fischer to lead the attack, and with Dieter Muller, a victim of cartilage trouble, unable to take his place, the West German attack laboured terribly. Funnily enough, their new attacking methods, with two orthodox wingers lying wide and a highly resourceful centre-forward alone in the middle, place a heavier demand on individual prowess than the old tactics. Not till Ronnie Worm, scorer of the West German B goal at Augsburg the previous night, came on to the field did the Germans begin to look truly dangerous; though Rumennigge in the first half was most unlucky with a shot that smacked against the post. The idea of playing Holzenbein, a winger with tendencies to drop back into midfield, in the centre of the attack was ridiculous from the first. But these problems pale into triviality by comparison with that of the sweeper.

Ah, the sweeper! Bearzot was saying to me afterwards that he had this problem in abundance with the Italian team; who have never, let us face it, had a sweeper in the manner of Franz Beckenbauer. The West Germans, who owe their whole concept of Total Football to Beckenbauer (who himself says he derived the idea of his libero role from watching Giacinto Facchetti) cannot hope to replace him; any more than the Dutch can hope to replace Johan Cruyff.

When Beckenbauer went to the Cosmos, he acted in haste and may well be repenting at leisure. Intellectually, I feel, he may have accepted that by so doing, he was destroying his chances of leading West Germany in the 1978 World Cup. At heart, I think he still felt it might be arranged. But Schoen is surely right to believe that it is simply not enough for him to join the West German World Cup team at the last moment, straight out of a League which may politely be described as moderate.

Who will fill the breach in Argentina? Probably Manny Kaltz, although the Hamburg right-back has been out of favour in the last two West German internationals against British teams. Kevin Keegan thinks he is still much the best in the country. The experiment of trying the 29-year-old Georg Schwarzenbeck there was modestly successful. Schwarzenbeck after a bad start did at least begin to thrust upfield, even if it would have been absurd to expect from him the subtleties, the technical mastery, the moral authority, of a Beckenbauer. But he is scarcely an answer to the dilemma.

Berti Vogts has apparently said that now that such stars as Beckenbauer and Gunter Netzer have gone, things are running more smoothly in the international camp; no one turns up late to meals any more. Perhaps they don't. But an occasional, even a persistent, unpunctuality would seem a small price to pay for the genius of players such as those, while a Wolfgang Overath would be an enormous help, too, at the moment. Heinz Flohe, at 29, just hasn't acquired the authority, for all his left footed skills, and it seems unlikely that Neumann, capped in midfield for the first time against England, can attain it in the few short months which are left.

# EEC open the doors — or the flood gates?

## Keir Radnedge

**OFFICIALS of the Common Market have succeeded where all the pressure of the big clubs has failed — forcing Italian soccer to reopen the borders to foreign stars.**

Mention of the European Economic Community is usually guaranteed to bring a yawn out of football fans, but this decision is very big news.

And already Internazionale are rubbing their hands in glee at having pre-empted the announcement and taken an option on Michel Platini, the French midfield star.

It was in 1964 that the Italians shut the flood gates to the foreign influx, a decision prompted by the World Cup failures of 1958 and 1962 because it seemed the big-money mercenaries were preventing Italians making the grade.

Now, after a year of talks in Brussels, the Common Market Commission and officials from football associations of the nine member nations have agreed that professional footballers have the same right of free movement within the community as anyone else.

This could ultimately mean no restriction *of any sort* on the number of foreigners, in any club team in Italy, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, West Germany, Britain, the Republic of Ireland and Denmark.

But for the time being a limit of two players per club will be established, and most associations will probably hope to hold it at that. Certainly for the Italians this will mean reverting to the rules in force for the early 1960s.

The hunting season has already begun, though federation president Franco Carraro made it clear that *Cafeio* will not be able to make the necessary adjustments until season 1979-80.

That won't upset Inter's presidential adviser Sandro Mazzola. Platini has one more year of his contract with Nancy to run anyway, so he couldn't play for Inter before 1979. What Mazzola had been worried about was that the ban on foreign players would be maintained until 1981, in which case they would have renounced their option.

And that would have meant a waste of £60,000 — for that is how much Inter have paid Nancy already. The transfer fee will be in the region of £600,000 — when Inter come back to pay it.

Milan and Juventus are also pleased at the news — Juventus have lately been eyeing Kevin Keegan, Klaus Fischer and Trevor Francis. But Dieter Muller, Rainer Bonhof and Allan Simosen can all expect to be approached in the next few months.

Not all the Italian clubs are in favour, however.

Gaetano Anzalone, Roma's president, warned: "The rich clubs will use their financial power to hire the best players and thus widen the gap which already exists in our soccer.

"And the poorer provincial clubs will also be deprived of the cash they got for the transfers of their most promising players. That money will go out of the country."

Since the war Italian clubs have brought in about 400 foreigners, the most successful including Gunnar Nordahl, Nils Liedholm, Omar Sivori, John Charles, Juan Alberto Schiaffino, Luis Suarez and Jose Altafini. Now only Lazio's veteran Brazilian centre-forward, Sergio Clerici, remains.

At the moment it seems the doors will only be open to Common Market nationals, but I wouldn't rule out the possibility of the big clubs — now with their foot in the door — forcing it wide open to allow the reintroduction of South Americans.

"Now at last standards will soon be improving again," said a delighted Eugenio Bersellini, coach of Inter, as Mazzola and general manager Giancarlo Beltrami explained how they managed the Platini coup.

"For some time," said Mazzola, "while we've been waiting for a decision on reopening the frontiers, I've been spying on several of the best young players in Europe — Denmark, France, England and elsewhere. Platini was among them. We even filmed certain matches, and ran them through in the offices here. From that it was clear to us that Platini is the best."

Beltrami added: "We jumped the gun on our rivals because we really believed the frontiers would soon be opened. Platini's grandparents came from Italy, from Novara and Bergamo and we're sure he'll do well here."

**Inter have recently hit a good patch of form in the league, and as I write are fifth with 22 points — seven behind leaders Juventus. But they can't get out of the habit of dropping silly points. Away to Napoli they let the newly-composed and rehabilitated Luciano Chiarugi send them a goal behind with some lax defensive play. Then, after Gabriele Oriali and Carlo Muraro had put them in front, skipper Giacinto Facchetti gave away an 83rd-minute own goal to present Napoli with a point.**

Muraro was introduced into the Inter team in 1974 by Helenio Gerrera — with all HH's typical ballyhoo.

"This boy will be even better than Jair da Costa — he's quicker, and he can shoot harder," he said in recalling the Brazilian outside-right who starred in Inter's Champions' Cup triumphs of the mid-sixties. Well, Muraro has scored some useful goals,

**Featured across the top of these pages, members of Italy's World Cup squad. Left to right: Paolino Pulici, Dino Zoff, Marco Tardelli, Claudio Gentile and Mauro Bellugi.**

but he needs to improve a great deal to match the Brazilians effectiveness.

And certainly he wasn't up to scratch in Inter's 1-0 defeat away to Lazio. Ironically the team leading the way in the search for foreign stars were beaten by a goal from . . . Clerici.

There is more transfer talk elsewhere. Juventus are hopeful of recalling free-scoring Paolo Rossi from Lanerossi Vicenza at the season's end, even though this could cost a world record £3.3 million! If Fiorentina are relegated they would also be favourites to pick up Giancarlo Antognoni — and he has made no secret of the fact that this is where he would like to end up.

Juventus and Fiorentina drew 1-1 in Florence recently — a surprising result since Fiorentina are still struggling in the relegation zone, and Juventus have happily seen Roberto Bettega and Roberto Boninsegna back among the goals lately.

The Florentines have 15 points, the same as Foggia and three more than Pescara. Just above them, teetering on the brink, are the determined fellow strugglers of Bolgona (16 points) and Genoa (17).

Fiorentina, incidentally, have changed their manager for the second time this season. After the resignation of Carlo Mazzone, they appointed his assistant Mario Mazzoni. But after just a couple of weeks he was such a nervous wreck he couldn't carry on. Beppe Chiappella, the one-time Fiorentina right-half and later manager, is back holding the reins. He was most recently with Inter.

And Chiappella's first move was an appeal to national team manager Enzo Bearzot to drop Antognoni from the national squad.

"How can he do his best for his country when he has all the worries of our league position to consider?" said Chiappella. "Bearzot should give him a rest. When we're safe he'll be all the better for the *Azzurri*."

Back at the top of the table Juventus have a four-point lead over Milan, Torino and Lanerossi, who are all level on 25.

Milan had a good chance to pull back, but in the snow of San Siro Juventus held on for a 0-0 draw in a dreadful game, which provoked Milan officials into all kinds of criticism of referee Paolo Bergamo.

# A NEW SIVORI

THERE could be a new Sivori in Italy again soon. Nestor, 17-year-old son of the great Argentine Omar Sivori, has been having a trial with Juventus, where his father established his great reputation alongside John Charles in the early 1960s.

* * M

ONE coach already open to offers is Lazio's Luis Vinicio. Lazio are 11th in the table and have already decided not to keep the Brazilian on for a third year after the season ends.

* * *

GIULIO CAMPANATI, president of the refereeing organisation, has ordered the men in black to be much stricter with players. "More whistling, less talking," is his instruction after the two-week suspension of Giulio Menicucci, the referee involved in the Vicenza-Perugia row reported here last month.

* * *

WHEN a blow to the head and concussion forced Milan goalkeeper Ricky Albertosi to leave the pitch after 34 minutes of the 1-1 draw at Vicenza, it was the first time he had missed any part of a game in four seasons.

# World Cup warm-up fixtures

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***France versus*** | | |
| Rumania | venue not known | 31. 3.78 |
| Brazil | Paris | 1. 4.78 |
| *Iran | venue not known | 11. 5.78 |
| *Tunisia | venue not known | 19. 5.78 |
| ***West Germany versus*** | | |
| Brazil | Hamburg | 5. 4.78 |
| Sweden | Stockholm | 19. 4.78 |
| ***Mexico versus*** | | |
| Bulgaria | Mexico | 4. 4.78 |
| Spain | Granada | 26. 4.78 |
| Celta de Vigo | Vigo | 1. 5.78 |
| Finland | Helsinki | 4. 5.78 |
| Eintracht Frankfurt | Frankfurt | 8. 5.78 |
| ***Austria versus*** | | |
| Belgium | Belgium | 22. 3.78 |
| Switzerland | Basle | 4. 4.78 |
| Holland | Vienna | 20. 5.78 |
| ***Spain versus*** | | |
| Norway | venue not known | 29. 3.78 |
| Mexico | Granada | 26. 4.78 |
| Uruguay | Montevideo | 24. 5.78 |
| ***Sweden versus*** | | |
| East Germany | venue not known | 4. 4.78 |
| West Germany | Stockholm | 19. 4.78 |
| Czechoslovakia | Solna | 18. 5.78 |
| ***Brazil versus*** | | |
| Argentina | Rio de Janeiro | 22. 3.78 |
| France | Paris | 1. 4.78 |
| West Germany | Hamburg | 5. 4.78 |
| Nacional | Jeddah | 10. 4.78 |
| Internazional | Milan | 13. 4.78 |
| England | Wembley | 19. 4.78 |
| Paraguay or Chile | Rio de Janeiro | 1. 5.78 |
| Ireland | Rio de Janeiro | 6. 5.78 |
| Czechoslovakia | Rio de Janeiro | 17. 5.78 |
| ***Holland versus*** | | |
| Tunisia | Tunis | 4. 5.78 |
| Austria | Vienna | 20. 5.78 |
| ***Iran versus*** | | |
| Yugoslavia | Tehran | 5. 4.78 |
| Wales | Tehran | 18. 4.78 |
| Mexico | Tehran | 28. 4.78 |
| ***Scotland versus*** | | |
| Northern Ireland | venue not known | 13. 5.78 |
| Wales | Glasgow | 17. 5.78 |
| England | Glasgow | 20. 5.78 |

# Woodcock's two goals

England maintained their winning sequence at under-21 level with a 2-1 win over Italy in the first leg of their quarter-final UEFA under-21 championship. Nottingham Forest's Tony Woodcock scored both England's goals and he is pictured leaping between the stranded Cabrini and Ogliari to head the first. But after a bruising encounter with the young Italians, England are left wondering whether a one goal margin will be sufficient to take to Italy for the second leg.

# QUICK CHANGE ARTISTS!

## Hungarian News

## by Leslie Vernon

I SHOULD have gone into special training to keep up with the current Hungarian Championship race, because merely to record the frantic happenings needs stamina, alertness and utmost vigilance.

Due to the World Cup (sometimes I think that we would all have been better-off if they didn't qualify!), the entire league programme must be played off in 66 days. This emergency necessitates a Saturday-Wednesday-Saturday treadmill, which only stops for a breather on April 15, when the national team meet Czechoslovakia, and on the dates allocated for the U-21 European Championship quarter-finals v Yugoslavia.

Mercifully, the domestic Cup competition has been put-off until early August, with the Final scheduled for August 20 — a Hungarian national holiday. But since next year, three Magyar teams will be allowed into the UEFA-Cup, there is unusually keen rivalry in the league, because even a fifth place might guarantee a spot in Europe. If one of the top-four later captures the Cup they will transfer into the Cup Winners' Cup.

### Private opinion

Of course, I am only airing a private opinion when I look upon hard, competitive games at too frequent intervals as a "bad thing" as a prelude to the World Cup. Although I am in concert with the majority of the coaches who share this view, and would have preferred to play league matches until the middle of May instead of ending the season on April 22.

After that date, the national squad will stay together as I mentioned last month in "World Soccer", and the top six clubs will play — without their internationals — in that new "ad-hoc" European competition, which is specially devised to provide revenue for the hard-up outfits during the long hot summer. Still, one cannot complain about the Championship, which is very tight and interesting as the following sequence of "Nepsport" headlines demonstrates.

February 16 — "Videoton take over the lead!" February 19 — "Ujpest Dozsa on top of the table". February 26 — "Honved take over the lead!" March 2 — "New leaders in Division One — MTK/VM". March 5 — "Dozsa are on top". March 9 — "Honved reclaim a place on top of the table". Stop the world, I want to get off! Six changes in seven rounds must be some kind of a record — it certainly is for Hungary, where traditionally, one or two teams dominate each season. Still, taking the 25th round as our "deadline", it is surprising to see Honved and MTK sharing the lead on 36 points. The Army-team, under Lajos Tichy, have collected 12 points out of a possible 14 so far this spring, playing reasonably well.

### Meet rivals

It must be said, however, that they haven't yet met any of their closest rivals — Videoton, who they beat 1-0, are no longer in the race for honours. Honved are playing 4-2-4 these days, with Pal and Pinter working like Trojans at midfield, and Gyimesi giving width to the forward-line on the right flank. MTK are also unbeaten and their 11 points' haul is more impressive than Honved's record, because it includes drawn games against champions Vasas, and a 1-1 v. Ferencvaros in the traditional derby match.

The blue-and-whites have certainly come a long way in a short time, and a great deal of the credit must go to their new young coach, Gyorgy Mezei — a certain future national team manager.

### Strongly tipped

Dozsa are third on 35 points, and they are still strongly tipped for the title. They beat unfortunate Videoton 4-0, revenged their shock defeat against Szeged last December by thrashing them 6-1, but also dropped some silly points against Haladas and Raba.

Vasas are still in contention with 33 points (9 in the seven games played in 'the second half'), but five draws and two victories are not championship form. Their forward-line's thirst for scoring goals, which was so evident last season, has dried-up, and manager Ferenc Kovacs is unable to find the solution to the problem. Both Videoton and Ferencvaros opened brightly, but the former faded badly, and the latter don't seem to be able to put a string of good results together. In fact, both Videoton (31 points) and Ferencvaros (28 points) were beaten by Diosgyor (29), the team of the moment.

These provincials from North Hungary drew their first three matches (2-2 v Dozsa!) and then promptly won four games on the trot. If they carry on in this vein, they could easily capture the coveted fifth place in the league, and be back in Europe following their praiseworthy exploits in this year's Cup Winners Cup.

Szeged and Kaposvar are firmly anchored in the relegation spots, with only Raba in striking distance. So, it is "all go" in Hungary. I only hope that no key player of the national squad suffers a bad injury due to the compulsion that he must turn out for his club every Wednesday, Saturday and twice on Bank Holidays!

## News from France by Andre Duclos

# Bathenay may miss finals

**SADLY, at a time when French football is so buoyant — qualifying for Argentina, giving the Italians a severe shock in Naples — injuries, and severe ones, have blemished the picture. Ironic that there were those who feared the game against Italy, especially on behalf of Michel Platini, on the grounds that the ruthless Italian defenders might harm our players. To be fair to them, they didn't. Yet scarcely had Dominique Bethenny scored that vital goal from a corner than he had gone home, hurt himself in training, putting himself out for months, and made himself at least doubtful for the World Cup.**

This was a dreadful blow to Saint Etienne, who so badly need the midfield dynamism of the excellent Bathenay, but a further blow was to come. An appalling double footed tackle by the Rouen full-back, Serge Amouret, going in with both feet up, fractured both his tibia and fibula and meant that he has to be in plaster for three months; at the end of which we can only pray that he will be able to play football again. Amouret wept when he realised what he had done, but it was a little late for such repentance. As the excellent French international stopper-cum-sweeper Marius Tresor has observed, and he is a hard but fair tackler quite entitled to be heard on the subject, "there are defenders who don't seem to see any difference between a tackle and a heroic charge, between the ball and the ankles or shins of their opponents." Alas, French referees this season have been allowing too much of this kind of thing to happen without punishment.

Poor Sarramagna. This clever left winger's career has been haunted and plagued by injury. Now after an operation he has a metal pin in his leg. In the past, the 26-year-old "Sarra" has had any number of muscular injuries, injuries to joints, and a couple of operations. Let us sincerely hope he is not lost to a game he has graced for years.

It looks as if Michel Platini will be on his way to Internazionale of Milan at the end of the season. They are said already to have put down £60,000 for an option, and even if they paid as much as a million pounds for him — which they won't — he would still be a bargain by comparison with the much less known and less gifted Italian players who change hands for even bigger sums. The two wonderful free kicks he took in Naples showed his astounding technique. Each of them, as we know, beat Zoff, one high, one low. One brought a goal, the other was somewhat controversially disallowed. There are those who feel it was unwise for Platini and France thus to disclose their hand — if that is the word — when Italy are still to be met in the World Cup, but knowing something about how Platini takes his free kicks is not, as he so clearly demonstrated on the occasion of the second of them, the same as being able to counteract them.

### Poor game

The Championship continues to be fascinating, first one and then another Southern side taking the lead. The amazing goal scoring of the Argentinian centre-forward, Delio Onnis, keeps Monaco well in contention, and though Dalger had a surprisingly poor game for France in Naples, there is nothing wrong with his club form. He scored two, Onnis three, in the 6-1 routing of Rouen at that little jewel of a Monaco stadium. Only 857 spectators braved the drenching rain to watch it happen. Goals, as you will have noticed, seem to come quite easily to French League teams this season, and not merely within their own competition. Those seven goals lashed in by Bastia against Karl Zeiss Jena confirmed their splendid form in the UEFA Cup this season. Their League form, strangely enough, has been much less consistent, though they have had their triumphs there, as well.

Nantes, European Cup contenders for France this season, are still not by any means out of the running for our title, and at centre-back, the international Patrice Rio continues to play with poise, strength and calm. Michel Hidalgo, the team manager, admires him for his powerful consistency and for his impeccable discipline, his good nature, off the field. He says that he would like to see Rio use his heading ability more often in the opposing penalty area, especially at free kicks. Rio, who will be thirty in August, was first capped for France a couple of years ago against the Czechs, in Paris. He admits he was a little put out when he suddenly lost his place as a stopper to the Saint Etienne man Christian Lopez who is in fact a sweeper. Then, when Lopez could not make the trip to South America last summer, Rio got the chance to return; and seized it firmly.

Against Italy, Lopez actually took his place in the second half. "A quarter of an hour before the end," says Rio, "but that had been foreseen. Christian Lopez was actually going to come on at half-time. But Michel Hidalgo didn't want to change the team at all at that point since he expected it to react, after a laborious first half. He brought Lopez on when the French team had re-established the balance." When he went off, Hidalgo told him, he says, "I'm putting Jeannot on because I promised him."

Rio is in fact the son of a French international, his father Roger having played eighteen times for France between 1933 and 1937. Having had to wait nearly a year for his own recall to the national side in February 1977 against West Germany, Patrice is certainly not going to be easily displaced from the French team. He should be a sure source of strength in Buenos Aires.

Capped for the first time in Naples, as a second half substitute, was the Alsacian Albert Gemmrich, from Strasbourg. This broad shouldered forward has made himself a substantial name in a very short time with Strasbourg; but he would like to go to play in the Bundesliga, as did his present manager, Gilbert Gress, some years ago. It would be a little sad to lose him so soon after he has been called to the colours, especially at Platini and perhaps Bathenay seem to be on their way abroad at the end of the present season.

France have qualified for the World Cup — an emotional moment for Michel Hidalgo.

# GMOCH LOOKS TO HIS 'VETERANS'

**by Arthur Rotmil**

**REACTION in Poland to the World Cup draw was understandably one of unconcealed relief. Grouped with the title holders West Germany, but also with lesser lights, like Mexico and Tunisia, the Poles should progress to the next pool, though it may not be quite so easy as the initial salvo of elation would suggest.**

Poland's footballing fraternity had justifiable misgivings before the draw in Buenos Aires was made. Having finished Third in the last World Cup, the Poles rightly expected to be seeded, together with the champions, runners up and the host country. But there were rumours of sinister plots behind the scenes designed to help the more "fashionable" nations, or should I say the more powerful and more influential, who tried to obtain maximum advantage for themselves.

## Keep apart

There was talk of "economic" considerations — meaning no doubt that Brazil has to be kept apart. And it was an open secret among the FIFA hierarchy, that moves were afoot to seed Italy in Group IV, because of a vast Italian colony of wine growers in Mendoza! There were even suggestions of Spain being given preferential treatment, because of their racial and linguistic ties with Argentina!

These machinations brought the Dutch quickly on the scene and their Federation even sent a letter of protest to FIFA demanding that they be seeded. Eventually, it was decided to put Italy in Group I and what a nasty shock they received, being placed together with not only Argentina, but Hungary and France as well. No wonder the "unseeded" Poles are laughing.

There is, one could say, realistic optimism, confidence in the ability of players, coaches, team doctors and all other officials, that they will provide a solid foundation for a thorough preparation so that Poland can once again enjoy success in a World Cup tournament.

These preparations began immediately the qualification was assured, for Argentina. Four rounds of the League championship were moved back from the spring to early winter, in order to gain more spare dates for the national side. On February 26 the League programme was restarted; in March there will be six matches and in April a further three for each club and the championship should finish by May 2.

Only in the Cup competition there are problems, though the quarter-finals were fixed for March 1, but the dates for the semi-finals and the final are not yet known!

## 70 tested

At the beginning of the year the national manager Jacek Gmoch and his assistant Ryszard Kulesza called up 70 (!) players into a training camp. All kinds of tests and medical examinations were carried out before the players returned to their clubs. Gmoch then named a squad of 22, which travelled to Yugoslavia where they spent 17 days at the beginning of February.

The party was accommodated at Rovin, near Pula and played four matches. First the team beat a local selection by 14-0 (new star Boniek hitting four goals) and then the Yugoslav First Division side Olimpija Ljubljana by 1-0 (goal by Kusto). Best man on the field was the Polish goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski. Finally, in an international, the Poles defeated Kuwait by 3-1, and drew with FC Arabie (Kuwait) 2-2. In these two games the young striker Iwan (Wisla Krakow) scored four goals!

## Five matches

**Poland's further programme of preparation includes five test matches, against Luxembourg away on March 22, v. Greece on April 5, and v. Republic of Ireland on April 12. For two dates, April 23 and 26 the Poles are still searching for opponents. Manager Gmoch would like to play against Hungary, France or Austria. As in 1974, the squad will probably again be assembled for final preparation in the well known sports resort of Zakopane. Who will play in Argentina?**

Gmoch gave a chance to several youngsters, but it appears that those tried and trusted "veterans" of four years ago will get priority. Three men from that great side have to be replaced: defender Adam Musial (who was involved in a bad car crash) midfielder Zygmunt Maszczyk (who is definitely past his best and now active in France) and left winger Robert Gadocha (also in France, but way off his best form).

The biggest problem until recently concerned the centre back position, which was once so dominantly occupied by Jerzy Gorgon (Gornik Zabrze). He suffered just about everything that a footballer can endure in recent years. Before the Olympic final in Montreal he pulled out, allegedly with an injury. Then came the "life ban" from the national team for drunkenness, plus a six-month club suspension and finally he had to undergo a cartilage operation.

## Superhuman

To find form this giant of a man, who is not exactly the keenest hardworker, was expected to produce a superhuman effort.

Gmoch tried out in his position such men as Maculewicz, Wieczorek and even the midfielder Kasperczak, but neither of them could make a success of their new role. Then, suddenly Gorgon sprang to life — he was picked for the squad and now it seems certain: Gorgon will play in Argentina!

Unfortunately, no worthy successor to Musial has yet been found. In his place Wawrowski, Boguszewicz, Maculewicz and Rudy were tried. It appears that Wojciech Rudy will get the vote. As a stopper Zmuda is certain to keep his place. At right back Szymanowski should again be picked, although he too, was for a time out of favour.


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Lubanski (left) with Gmoch.

There are, however, no problems in midfield: Kasperczak (already 32), the redoubtable Deyna and Bohdan Masztaler (who replaces Maszczyk), are first choice. It is not yet certain who will take over permanently from Gadocha. Terlecki is not yet in his class, the form of Szarmach is erratic and only Lato is without competition.

## Aggressive style

Perhaps Gmoch will revert to a 4-4-2 formation, if his strikers do not show better form. The Polish mentality is more geared to attack and even the midfield men are usually inclined to favour an aggressive style of play and are at their best when going forward. It is doubtful whether Gmoch would willingly sacrifice the methods which have served the team so well in Germany four years ago and he, I feel sure, would only settle for a more defensive line up if there was no other choice.

**There remains of course the enigma of Wlodzimierz Lubanski, the most famous Polish footballer of all time. He was reported to be staying put in Belgium, with his professional club Lokeren. But the public and experts clearly want Lubanski to play in the World Cup — he did miss the last tournament to everyone's disappointment through a bad injury.**

Lubanski is a type of player who by example can stimulate his colleagues and he, more than any other footballer, personifies these characteristics. He is ambitious, superbly confident, courageous and totally dedicated to the cause of his team and his country. In addition of course to his great skill and experience.

## Lasting impression

I shall always remember my first meeting with Lubanski on his 21st birthday (February 28, 1968), before Gornik Zabrze played Manchester United in the European Cup quarter-final. He left a lasting impression, both as a sportsman and a highly intelligent personality.

My feeling is that the Poles will take the field in Argentina with this side: Tomaszewski; Szymanowski, Zmuda, Gorgon, Rudy; Kasperczak, Deyna, Masztaler; Lato, Szarmach, Lubanski.

That means eight men who won their third place last time out — this can't be bad!

## Back seat

The Polish Football Federation (Polski Zwiazek Pilki Moznej) is assured of the complete co-operation of all clubs. From all sides the international players are receiving support and encouragement in their preparations. Club football and individual considerations will take a back seat when the nationalistic and staunchly patriotic Poles send out their men to represent them in Argentina.

Everybody knows how much more difficult it will be in South America to defend the bronze medal won in 1974. But the Poles, always the romantics and optimists, can also be realistic. More than a place among the top eight nations is this time not expected.

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**I AM A** 17 year old Finnish boy who wants Pen Pals from all over the world. My favourite teams are West Ham Utd; International teams are England and France. Must know a lot about football. Maileu Kauppiner, Patterinkatu 1, 497000 Hamina, Finland.

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## News from the United States from Colin Jose

# McCreadie faced with problems

**EDDIE McCREADIE, former Chelsea player and manager and ex-Scottish international is the new coach of the Memphis Rogues of the North American Soccer League. McCreadie replaces Malcolm Allison who was surprisingly axed by the Memphis management just four weeks before the club's opening game.**

According to reports from Memphis, Allison the controversial former manager of Manchester City and Crystal Palace, was fired because of his failure to recruit players for the new team. The nature of the NASL is such that a large part of the task of each club coach before the start of each season is the recruitment of players from outside North America and it would seem that Allison did not live up to the requirements of the club owners in this respect, though Allison said on his return to Europe that he was not given sufficient money to enlist the right players.

As a result McCreadie now faces the enormous task of trying to put a team together in under a month before the Rogues face the Tampa Bay Rowdies in Tampa on April 1.

Most of the recruitment of players for the NASL is done in Britain for the dual reason that most NASL coaches are British and also that players who play for NASL clubs are expected to help promote the game and as such should have a good command of the English language. However, during the off season NASL coaches scour the world looking for talent and so NASL teams can be a curious mixture of nationalities.

Another new NASL club solved its coaching problems by appointing the assistant coach from the team next door. The man the Houston Hurricanes chose is Timo Liekoski former assistant coach of the Dallas Tornado. Liekoski, who was born in Finland and came to the United States at the age of 19, has the advantage of being very close to the American game and in the years ahead this more than the British connection will be a priority for NASL coaches.

Liekoski is already off to a good start in his player recruitment having signed the experienced Stewart Jump from the Tampa Bay Rowdies and also Ian Anderson who played briefly with the same club last year. Jump was a member of the Stoke City team that won the Football League Cup in 1972, while Anderson was a Scottish Under 23 international while with St. Johnstone.

Houston have also signed ex-Scottish international and Celtic player Bobby Lennox who will be making his first appearance in the NASL.

Some of the more notable signings around the league to date are Canadian international full back and captain Bruce Wilson who has been transferred from the Vancouver Whitecaps to the Chicago Sting. Another Canadian international midfielder Gene Strenicer has also moved to the Sting where Clive Toye is obviously trying to build a team to rival the Cosmos both at the gate and in terms of playing success.

Strenicer joins Chicago from the Toronto Metros-Croatia who have obtained 18-year-old Uruguayan youth international sweeper Gallo from Liverpool of Montevideo and are reported to be negotiating with Liverpool of England for the services of Welsh international John Toshack.

U.S. international goalkeeper Arnold Mausser and Canadian international striker Brian Budd have both been transferred from the Vancouver Whitecaps to the new Colorado Caribous who have also signed U.S. internationals Steve Ralbovsky and Fred Pereira.

Dallas have most of last year's successful team re-signed but a new addition is Kai Haaskivi from Helsinki J.K. Gordon Banks returns for his second season in Fort Lauderdale, while Wolfgang Suhnholz the former Bayern Munich player joins his fourth NASL club in the Los Angeles Aztecs. The Minnesota Kicks will have most of the players who have served them so well in the past two years returning but have added Tony Want the Birmingham City defender and Chico Hamilton the former Aston Villa winger.

In New York the Cosmos have signed Vladislav Bogicevic the Yugoslav international midfield player from Red Star Belgrade and English international winger Dennis Tueart from Manchester City. Canadian international goalkeeper Jack Brand who played for the Rochester Lancers last season has also been signed by the Cosmos for a reported $50,000 a year. Brand seems set to replace last years goalkeeper U.S. international Shep Messing.

Johnny Giles the ex-Leeds United star and manager of the Eire international team has joined Peter Osgood with the new Philadelphia Fury while Dave Davidovic one time midfield player with Partizan Belgrade has signed for the San Jose Earthquakes. Davidovic is now playing in Belgium for Lierse.

Mike England is back again with Seattle while Tommy Ord, Paul Crossley and Mickey Cave also return to Seattle who were last years beaten finalists. Tampa Bay have a familiar look under new coach Gordon Jago while in Vancouver the Whitecaps will have two ex-England forwards in Kevin Hector and Alan Hinton. Jon Sammels also joins the Whitecaps who have re-signed Canadian internationals Sam and Bobby Kenarduzzi, Garry Ayre, Bob Bolitho and Buzz Parsons.

Stewart Jump

One time Tottenham Hotspur player Mike Dillon moves from the New York Cosmos to the Washington Diplomats while Paul Cannell returns to Washington after an absence of one season.

Away from the NASL officials of both the Canadian Soccer Association and the United States Soccer Federation are secretly hoping that any proposed changes in the structure of the preliminary rounds of the 1982 World Cup will at least separate the two nations if not put them in a totally different group.

Privately for some time the Canadians have been searching out the possibility of getting out of CONCACAF, however, at the same time they acknowledge that geography is against them. Both the Canadians and Americans feel that they would benefit more from closer ties with Europe and the only way this might come about is with the formation of a North Atlantic group.

As it is the islands of the Caribbean are trying to break away from CONCACAF with the hope of being awarded any second place in the World Cup finals that any change in the structure might bring.

The CONCACAF Youth Tournament will be held this year in Honduras during October and to date 19 nations have entered. The top two teams will compete in the World Youth Cup in Tokyo and this is undoubtedly responsible for the large entry, an entry which incidentally includes the nations of the Caribbean and the United States and Canada.

# HOMECOMING OF SULTAN GHELEECH

**IRAN'S chances of becoming more than a mere nuisance in the World Cup finals have been considerably increased by a little negotiation in California.**

The deal has secured the release of Parvis Gheleechkhani by San Jose Earthquakes to play in Argentina this summer.

It must be explained that Gheleechkhani is not just another football journeyman in search of a quick buck, not to the Iranians anyway. He is to Iran what Pele was to Brazil, more than Cruyff to Holland or Beckenbauer to West Germany.

He is the finest player the country has ever produced, an inspiration, a cult figure. They call him Sultan Gheleech. In the last World Cup competition Australians dubbed him Parvis the Great after a brilliant two-goal performance against the eventual qualifiers for West Germany.

This time Iran have reached the finals — without Gheleechkhani. Their former captain had decided to try his luck in American football. But that did nothing to sour relations or take the gloss off his reputation.

Iran made it clear he would be taken back with open arms for the finals. He responded by insisting on his release for the last part of their preparations and the finals.

He had offer from San Diego Sockers and Oakland Stompers, but signed a two-year contract with San Jose. He now combines football with studies — and has his release for Argentina.

Gheleechkhani is a short, stocky, powerful figure and extremely versatile. Iran's assistant coach, Asghar Sharafi, says of him: 'He could play any position except goalkeeper.'

Gheleechkhani says he prefers midfield or sweeper, and San Jose plan to give him the former role. But he produced that devastating performance against Australia from centre-forward.

He hopes to join the Iranians for their warm-up matches in France and Belgium, and that's when the final decision on his position in Argentina will be made.

Iran's success hasn't surprised

**by Derick Allsop**
**of the Daily Mail**

Gheleechkhani. I could see it coming, he says. 'In the last four or five years our game has made great strides and this is the reward.

'The new League, the Federation and the general administration have given us the foundation. We also have the resources and the desire to do well. So now the standard has improved and is still improving.

'We didn't do badly in the last World Cup and since then we have gained valuable experience in matches against other countries. I knew we could reach the finals this time.

'The other countries in our group, Holland, Scotland and Peru, are all saying they don't underestimate. That is wise. I believe we won't be sounding a break-time bell for them but a danger bell.'

Gheleechkhani acknowledges the strength of Holland by placing them in his top three for the Cup. His other tips are champions West Germany and Brazil.

'Germany are one of the biggest powers and must once again be feared,' he says. 'Holland also have a lot of ability and they should do well. Brazil, especially in South America, are always dangerous.'

Gheleechkhani believes the USA will also be making a mark on world football in the not too distant future.

'There are a lot of foreign players in America at the moment so it is difficult to assess the true strength of the home players. But the game has caught on and is advancing.

'They have the will and the resources to succeed. A lot of money is being pumped into the game and I am sure the Americans have a great future. I think that in 10 to 15 years they will be a world power.'

Gheleechkhani, meanwhile, is happy to be rejoining Iran for their finest hour. 'I have

**Mohammad Sadeghi, Iran's talented but unpredictable midfield player.**

played 91 internationals for my country, but this will be the greatest experience.'

The return of the Sultan will clearly lift Iran. He, current skipper Ali Parvin, Hassan Roshan and Hassan Nazari give them quality that could cause Holland and Scotland discomfort.

But the key to their fortunes may well be the form of the rest of the team, players of talent who are now asked to produce it on the world stage.

Goalkeeper Nasser Hedjazi is an example. Many top coaches, including Frank O'Farrell, believe he is a goalkeeper of outstanding ability. He and his defence have a splendid World Cup record. In 12 qualifying and pre-qualifying matches Iran conceded only three goals.

Another player who impressed O'Farrell is Ebrahim Ghassempour. He is a midfield player with marvellous vision and a ferocious shot. Mohammad Sedeghi also plays in midfield. He has tight control and likes to take on players.

But now Hedhazi, Ghassempour and Sedeghi face the real challenge. Their performances will reveal the depth of Iran's strength and their advancement in the world game.

## WORDS OF PRAISE . . . AND REGRET

**A BELATED word of praise (writes *Brian Glanville*) for THE TREATMENT OF FOOTBALL INJURIES by Harry Harris and Mike Varney. Varney is Spurs' capable young physiotherapist, Harris covers their matches for the local paper. For once in a while we really do have sensible, practical, elucidatory advice on injuries, and the book is rounded out with some alarming anecdotes about injuries to players. The book is published at £2.95 by Macdonald and Janes, who have produced it attractively and clearly. Bravo.**

**TED CRAWFORD. Sadly we must record the death of a fine coach, Ted Crawford. One centre-forward for Halifax, Liverpool and, for many years, Clapton Orient (as they then were) Crawford was an outspoken Yorkshireman from Filey with a wonderful raconteur's gift, an impressive record in Sweden (Dergerfors), Italy (Bologna and Livorno) and Greece (AEK Athens). Those who knew him will treasure his talent and his honesty, and will miss him badly. A prophet shamefully without honour in his own country, where he languished for so many years out of a game which could so fruitfully have used him.**

# Euro-review

compiled by Keir Radnedge

## Quarter finals — first legs

### CHAMPIONS' CUP

**Benfica 1** (Nene 13)
**Liverpool 2** (Case 36, Hughes 71)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Derks (Holland).
In a raging thunderstorm Benfica just didn't have the legs or the self-confidence to seriously rattle the European champions — though they did go ahead after 13 minutes when skipper Toni slipped a pass between Tommy Smith and Phil Thompson, and Nene shot past Clemence. Goalkeeper Bento was fortunate to save from Kenny Dalglish as Liverpool hit back, but in the 24th minute Nene beat the Liverpool defence only to see Celso slip as he was about to score a second. Then, with Liverpool down to 10 men with Thompson receiving treatment, Dalglish was fouled by Eurico and after Terry McDermott ran over the ball, Jimmy Case slammed the free kick into the net. And Case struck again in the 71st minute, giving Dalglish the opportunity and time to send skipper Emlyn Hughes in for the winner. It was Benfica's first defeat of the season, and their first for 46 matches — an upset confirmed when referee Derks ignored Pietra's claim for a penalty after he was clearly fouled by substitute Alan Hansen.

**Ajax Amsterdam 1** (Van Dord 86)
**Juventus 1** (Causio 89)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 38,500. **Ref:** Prokop (E. Germany).
Ajax predictably pressed forward, and before half-time Tschou La Ling hit the bar and Ruud Geels had a shot cleared off Dino Zoff's goal-line. Juve had only one shot — an effort sent wide by Franco Causio — but Marco Tardelli missed a much clearer second-half opening when Ajax started to run themselves into the ground. Geels then forced a fine save from Zoff before Pim Van Dord forged upfield to force home a Tahamata corner. As the crowd started to stream home, celebrating, Causio took a throw-in, squeezed past Jan Everse, and beat Dan Schrijvers for the equaliser — a happy moment for the Italians!

**Brugge 2** (Courant 43, De Cubber 53)
**Atletico Madrid 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Aldinger (W. Germany).
Goalkeeper Birger Jensen was the Brugge hero, in action as early as the eighth minute when he saved from Ruben Cano. After that Brugge started to settle, and defender Alfons Bastijns first forced a diving save out of Miguel Reina, then hit a post. Marcial cleared off the line, Reina made another save from Julien Cools, then two more from Leekens and Vandereycken. Brugge then went ahead just before half-time when Courant went past Luiz Pereira to beat Reina. Atletico thought they'd equalised two minutes after the break when Eugenio Leal got the ball into the net, but the 'goal' was disallowed because two other Atletico forwards had been standing offside . . . and soon after De Cubber beat Reina with a brilliant 30-yarder. Atletico threw themselves into attack but on the hour, after Leekens felled Aguilar, Jensen made a fine save from Marcial's penalty. In the 85th Cano blasted over when it would have been easier to score.

**SSW Innsbruck 3** (P. Koncilia 7, Kriess 22, Schwarz 26)
**Borussia Moenchengladbach 1** (Heynckes 65)
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Anderco (Rumania).
Wacker Innsbruck, trailing in the league and barely able to train because of arctic conditions, shocked Borussia to the core. As early as the fourth minute they had a penalty, and though Kurt Welzl wasted it, Peter Koncilia put the Austrians ahead soon after. Welzl missed two more early chances before full back Werner Kriess made it 2-0, heading in a corner, and Werner Schwarz made it 3-0 from a free kick. Borussia found their feet in the second half, pulling one back through Jupp Heynckes, but several more efforts were foiled by the sharp reactions of goalkeeper Friedl Koncilia. Innsbruck lost their grip after injuries forced the substitutions of Schwarz and Welzl. They were, of course, already without injured midfielder Sepp Stering.

### CUP-WINNERS' CUP

**Vejle BK 0**
**Twente Enschede 3** (A. Muehren 26, Gritter 33, Thijssen 38)
**HT:** 0-3. **Att:** 4,300. **Ref:** Christov (Czech).
On a heavy ground, and peering through the Danish fog, the Dutch cup-winners didn't have much difficulty against Danes severely handicapped by the fact that their own new season was still several weeks away. About 1,500 Dutch fans had made the trip, and the only time they showed any anxiety was when Vejle introduced Ulrish Lefevre as substitute. Lefevre, of course, played successfuly for Borussia Moenchengladbach and Brugge, but even his efforts couldn't pull Vejle back into the game. Midfielders Arnold Muehren and Fransz Thijssen was outstanding for Twente.

**Austria Vienna 1** (Parits 61)
**Hajduk Split 1** (Surjak 66)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Lonella (Italy).
**Betis Seville 0**
**Moscow Dynamo 0**
**Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Foote (Scotland).
**Porto 1** (Gomes 37)
**Anderlecht 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 68,000. **Ref:** Carpenter (Nl).
The match was abandoned after 45 minutes of the scheduled game on the Wednesday night because of waterlogging — indeed at one stage in the second half, the replayed game was in danger. Porto won with that goal from Gomes, one of their best players, while Anderlecht had to thank goalkeeper Nico De Bree in defence and the efforts of Frankie Vercauteren, Ludo Coeck and Rob Rensenbrink in attack for making sure Porto could never risk throwing everyone into an all-out assault.

### UEFA CUP

**Aston Villa 2** (McNaught 87, Deehan 89)
**Barcelona 2** (Cruyff 20, Zuviria 78)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 49,619. **Ref:** Correia (Portugal).
Johan Cruyff, making his last competitive appearance in England, wasn't going to let anyone forget it. He put Barcelona ahead with a fine solo goal in the 20th minute and very nearly added a second before the interval. Villa, without injured stars Alex Cropley, John Gidman and Andy Gray, failed to make much impact on the game, and after some exquisite play by Carlos Rexach, his chip was headed in by Rafael Zuviria. Cruyff, injured, limped off to a standing ovation, and in his absence Villa were encouraged to grab two late, late goals — McNaught bravely heading in the first, Deehan grabbing the second after Barcelona claimed goalkeeper Artola had been fouled. Barcelona were without the injured Juan Carlos Heredia and Johan Neeskens.

**Bastia 7** (Larios 3, Papi 42, Mariot 56, Felix 70, 78, Cazes 82, Franceschetti 85)
**Carl Zeiss Jena 2** (Raab 61, 73)
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Delcourt (Belgium).
What a remarkable run Bastia extended — and without suspended Johnny Rep! After Jean-Francois Larios, ironically on loan from Saint-Etienne where he couldn't find a first-team place, had put them ahead there was no looking back — though the East Germans did once pull back to 2-4 down, with goals from Joachim Raab.

**FC Magdeburg 1** (Streich 78)
**PSV Eindhoven 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Guruceta (Spain).
Only PSV's second defeat of the season — the other was in a Dutch Cup game — they had several good chances near the end, but let them all go with hasty shooting. Streich scored for Magdeburg after the ball was headed on by Martin Hoffmann. Three earlier efforts had been well saved by Jan Van Beveren.

**Eintracht Frankfurt 3** (Kraus 58, Hölzenbein 69, 89 pen)
**Grasshoppers Zurich 2** (Bosco 37, Ponte 52 pen)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Linemayr (Austria).
Little has gone right for Frankfurt since coach Dettmar Cramer swapped from Bayern Munich. They were sadly disorganised early on, and Grasshoppers took full advantage to go 2-0 ahead. At last desperation forced Frankfurt back into the match. Wolfgang Kraus snatched one, and World Cup man Bernd Hölzenbein got the other two — the winner just on time.

THERE remained wide active interest in the outcome of all three European club contests after the quarter finals.

For the 12 teams through to the semi-finals were representing no fewer than 10 different countries, with only Belgium and Holland having an interest in more than one competition.

The Belgians had Brugge left in the Champions' Cup and Anderlecht going hell for leather to regain the Cup-winners' trophy, while for Holland Twente Enschede streamed into the last four in the Cup-winners' Cup and PSV Eindhoven — while still unbeaten in the league — had reached the same stage in the UEFA Cup.

Two holders remained afloat — Liverpool and Juventus, though last season's UEFA Cup holders from Italy are, of course, this year challenging for the Champions' Cup.

Few teams had it easy. In fact Juventus even needed penalties to overcome Ajax, and Borussia Moenchengladbach relied on an away goal to beat Swarowski Wacker Innsbruck. In the Cup-winners' Cup Austria Vienna beat Hajduk on penalties, and Grasshoppers surprisingly ousted Eintracht Frankfurt from the UEFA Cup thanks to their two away goals.

The semi-finals are set for April 12 and 26.

## Second legs

### CHAMPIONS' CUP

**Juventus 1** (Tardelli 21)
**Ajax Amsterdam 1** (Tscheu La Ling 74)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 67,000. **Ref:** Palotai (Hungary).
*Juventus win 3-0 on penalties – 2-2 on agg.*
Italian champions and league leaders made heavy weather of winning a tie most of the Ajax players had approached pessimistically. Juventus, the UEFA Cup holders and fancied for the Champions' Cup, went ahead early on, but were hauled back late in the game by substitute Tscheu La Ling. Their greater experience stood them — and goalkeeper Dino Zoff — in good stead in the eventual penalties' contest for Zoff saved two kicks. Juve's scorers were Benetti, Cabrini and Causio.

**Atletico Madrid 3** (Benegas 21, Marcial 31 and 56)
**Club Brugge 2** (Cools 55, Lambert 68)
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Partridge (England).
*Brugge win 4-3 on agg.*
Atletico's poor league form finally caught up with them in Europe, leaving them only the Spanish Cup through which they could hold any hope of a place in Europe next season. Leading by two goals at half-time they were all-square again but after the ever-reliable Julien pulled one back Atletico were always chasing a losing cause.

**Liverpool 4** (Callaghan 5, Dalglish 17, McDermott 78, Neal 89)
**Benfica 1** (Nene 25)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 48,364. **Ref:** Konrath (France).
*Liverpool win 6-2 on agg.*
The European champions go marching on, and they found it easy too against a weak Benfica for whom goalkeeper Bento had a dreadful time. An early snowstorm didn't help Liverpool who could have scored many more if their shooting had matched their dominance.

**Borussia Mg 2** (Bonhof 19 pen, Heynckes 32)
**SSW Innsbruck 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Frederiksson (Sweden).
*Borussia win on away goal – 3-3 on agg.*
Rainer Bonhof was Borussia's hero in their attempt to go one better than last season when they finished runners-up. He converted a penalty after Nielsen had been brought down by Pezzey, then provided the cross from which Jupp Heynckes headed the second. Heynckes had earlier had a similar effort disallowed for offside. Innsbruck's nearest was a 34th minute drive from Welzl which struck a post with Wolfgang Kleff well beaten. The second half degenerated into a bad-tempered scrap.

### CUP-WINNERS' CUP

**Hajduk Split 1** (Cop 21)
**Austria Vienna 1** (Daxbacher 56)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Biwersi (W. Germany).
*Austria win 3-0 on penalties – 2-2 agg.*
Hajduk's determination to succeed was shown in the way they cut a three-month suspension the club had imposed on winger Slavissa Zungul for taking time out during a recent visit to West Germany to visit former team-mate Ivan Buljan in Hamburg. But even Zungul's reappearance was to no avail as Hajduk squandered their penalties. Austria's hero was goalkeeper Hubert Baumgartner, who saved a first-half spot kick from Rakljac, then stopped two in the penalty contest from Jerkovic and Cop. The other Slav kick hit a post, and Austria were through.

**Moscow Dynamo 3** (Gershkovich 57, Kazachenok 61, Maximenkov 82)
**Betis Seville 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Thime (Norway).
*Dynamo win 3-0 on agg.*
Mikhail Gershkovich, Vladimir Kazachenok, and Alexander Maximenkov were the second half heroes in Dynamo's bid to make up for 1972, when they lost in the final. This second leg was played far from ice-bound Moscow, in Tblisi.

**Anderlecht 3** (Rensenbrink 25 pen, Nielsen 33, Vercauteren 82)
**Porto 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Hungerbühler (Switzerland).
*Anderlecht win 3-1 on agg.*
Anderlecht dominated from start to finish, with Rensenbrink scoring the opening goal after himself being felled in the penalty area. Anderlecht, disappointing in the league, were clearly concentrating all their efforts on regaining the trophy they won in 1976.

**Twente Enschede 4** (Thyssen 8, Overweg 15, Gritter 21, Van der Val 86)
**Vejle BK 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Jarguz (Poland).
*Twente win 7-0 on agg.*

### UEFA CUP

**Grasshoppers Zurich 1** (Ponte 34 pen)
**Eintracht Frankfurt 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 29,000. **Ref:** Maksimovic (Yug).
*Grasshoppers win on away goals – 3-3 on agg.*
The last of West German UEFA Cup quartet went out without much of a fight. This time one goal was enough for the Swiss surprises, who fully deserved a semi-final place after having been 2-0 at one stage in the first leg.

**Carl Zeiss Jena 4** (Raab 20, Lindemann 33, Vogel 53, Töpfer 70 pen)
**Bastia 2** (Papi 26, Krimau 64)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Michelotti (Italy).
*Bastia win 9-6 on agg.*
Bastia's proud run of home and away success was finally ended. But the attendance of just 11,000 emphasises that the East German fans certainly didn't believe in miracles, and Bastia went on to their first European semi-final.

**PSV Eindhoven 4** (Brandts 38, 71, Seguin own goal 44, Lubse 88)
**Magdeburg 2** (Hoffman 34, Pommerenke 70)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Wöhrer (Austria).
*PSV win 4-3 on agg.*
No problems for PSV, always one step ahead of the East Germans — thanks in particular to Wolfgang Sequin's unfortunate own goal.

**Barcelona 2** (Migueli 66, Asensi 76)
**Aston Villa 1** (Little 56)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 90,000. **Ref:** Babacan (Turkey).
*Barcelona win 4-3 on agg.*
Villa's chances, already slim, seemed to be reduced even further when England full back John Gidman was sent off after 24 minutes for hacking down Jesus De la Cruz. Barcelona, with Johan Cruyff again in fine form, could not find a way past Villa's defence however, even though Fortes and Zuviria missed good chances and Cruyff saw a 20-yarder rebound off the legs of goalkeeper Rimmer. Zuviria had a shot headed off the line by Gordon Smith at the end of the first half, and 11 minutes after the restart Villa took a shock lead. Migueli's clearance to Smith's free kick bounced into the net off Little. Barcelona were stung into two substitutions — Clares coming on along with Johan Neeskens, back after two months out because of injury. And, in the 66th minute, Migueli equalised with a diving header after a Rexach corner. Ten minutes later Asensi hit in the winner from Zuviria's cross. Barcelona were through — but it hadn't been so easy.

# LEAGUE TABLES

## BELGIUM

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bruges | 26 | 18 | 5 | 3 | 61 | 36 | 41 |
| Standard | 26 | 15 | 7 | 4 | 52 | 25 | 37 |
| Anderlecht | 26 | 15 | 5 | 6 | 46 | 23 | 35 |
| Lierse SK | 26 | 15 | 4 | 7 | 47 | 31 | 34 |
| Beveren-Waas | 26 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 36 | 24 | 30 |
| Beerschot | 26 | 9 | 11 | 6 | 45 | 33 | 29 |
| RWD Molenbeek | 26 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 46 | 39 | 28 |
| Winterslag | 26 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 37 | 40 | 28 |
| Antwerp | 26 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 35 | 29 | 27 |
| Beringen | 26 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 28 | 33 | 25 |
| Lokeren | 26 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 38 | 30 | 25 |
| Waregem | 26 | 8 | 6 | 12 | 32 | 41 | 22 |
| Kortrijk | 26 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 31 | 39 | 21 |
| SC Charleroi | 26 | 8 | 4 | 14 | 30 | 46 | 20 |
| Liege | 26 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 38 | 42 | 20 |
| La Louvière | 26 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 24 | 49 | 19 |
| Boom | 26 | 4 | 6 | 16 | 27 | 61 | 14 |
| CS Brugge | 26 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 18 | 50 | 13 |

## HOLLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PSV Eindhoven | 25 | 18 | 7 | 0 | 61 | 10 | 43 |
| AZ'67 Alkmaar | 25 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 56 | 21 | 36 |
| Twente Enschede | 24 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 50 | 20 | 34 |
| Ajax | 25 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 54 | 28 | 33 |
| Sparta Rotterdam | 24 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 39 | 24 | 30 |
| Feyenoord | 25 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 41 | 34 | 26 |
| Roda JC Kerkrade | 24 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 27 | 26 | 25 |
| NEC Nijmegen | 25 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 32 | 38 | 25 |
| Den Haag | 24 | 11 | 2 | 11 | 40 | 43 | 24 |
| Volendam | 25 | 10 | 4 | 11 | 37 | 44 | 24 |
| Vitesse Arnhem | 25 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 35 | 47 | 22 |
| NAC Breda | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 24 | 36 | 21 |
| Utrecht | 24 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 27 | 34 | 20 |
| VV Venlo | 25 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 32 | 53 | 19 |
| Haarlem | 24 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 26 | 39 | 18 |
| Amsterdam | 24 | 6 | 5 | 13 | 28 | 54 | 17 |
| G Ahead Deventer | 24 | 6 | 3 | 15 | 33 | 47 | 15 |
| Telstar Velsen | 24 | 2 | 4 | 18 | 17 | 61 | 8 |

## WEST GERMANY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cologne | 28 | 17 | 4 | 7 | 69 | 36 | 38 |
| Bor. M'gladbach | 27 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 58 | 37 | 35 |
| Hertha BSC | 28 | 13 | 8 | 7 | 49 | 37 | 34 |
| Fortuna Dusseldorf | 27 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 36 | 24 | 32 |
| VfB Stuttgart | 27 | 14 | 3 | 10 | 46 | 33 | 31 |
| Schalke 04 | 27 | 14 | 5 | 9 | 42 | 41 | 31 |
| Eintr. Frankfurt | 27 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 48 | 41 | 30 |
| Kaiserslautern | 27 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 51 | 48 | 30 |
| Hamburger SV | 28 | 11 | 6 | 11 | 45 | 52 | 28 |
| MSV Duisburg | 26 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 46 | 46 | 26 |
| Bayern | 28 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 54 | 51 | 26 |
| E. Braunschweig | 26 | 11 | 3 | 12 | 34 | 41 | 25 |
| Borussia Dortmund | 28 | 10 | 5 | 13 | 46 | 51 | 25 |
| Werder Bremen | 28 | 9 | 5 | 14 | 35 | 48 | 23 |
| VfL Bochum | 27 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 32 | 38 | 22 |
| Saarbrucken | 26 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 31 | 52 | 21 |
| 1860 Munich | 28 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 36 | 50 | 19 |
| St. Pauli | 27 | 5 | 4 | 18 | 34 | 66 | 14 |

## FRANCE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monaco | 29 | 16 | 8 | 5 | 58 | 36 | 40 |
| Marseille | 29 | 16 | 6 | 7 | 53 | 32 | 38 |
| Nantes | 28 | 14 | 9 | 5 | 44 | 22 | 37 |
| Strasbourg | 29 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 53 | 34 | 35 |
| Nice | 29 | 16 | 3 | 10 | 61 | 52 | 35 |
| St-Etienne | 29 | 15 | 5 | 9 | 40 | 36 | 35 |
| Laval | 29 | 13 | 7 | 9 | 42 | 40 | 33 |
| Sochaux | 30 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 54 | 42 | 33 |
| Bastia | 28 | 13 | 4 | 11 | 38 | 35 | 30 |
| Nancy | 28 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 46 | 40 | 29 |
| Lyon | 29 | 11 | 5 | 13 | 49 | 43 | 27 |
| St-Germain | 29 | 10 | 7 | 12 | 57 | 52 | 27 |
| Bordeaux | 29 | 11 | 5 | 13 | 37 | 47 | 27 |
| Metz | 29 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 28 | 46 | 24 |
| Valenciennes | 30 | 9 | 6 | 15 | 40 | 50 | 24 |
| Reims | 30 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 29 | 44 | 24 |
| Troyes | 28 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 32 | 49 | 23 |
| Lens | 30 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 44 | 60 | 23 |
| Nimes | 29 | 6 | 9 | 14 | 33 | 48 | 21 |
| Rouen | 29 | 6 | 3 | 20 | 36 | 68 | 15 |

## ENGLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nottingham For. | 29 | 19 | 7 | 3 | 54 | 18 | 45 |
| Manchester City | 30 | 17 | 5 | 8 | 56 | 33 | 39 |
| Everton | 30 | 15 | 9 | 6 | 57 | 36 | 39 |
| Arsenal | 31 | 15 | 8 | 8 | 41 | 26 | 38 |
| Liverpool | 29 | 15 | 6 | 8 | 39 | 24 | 36 |
| Leeds | 30 | 14 | 8 | 8 | 45 | 36 | 36 |
| Coventry | 29 | 14 | 7 | 8 | 57 | 46 | 35 |
| West Bromwich | 29 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 43 | 38 | 32 |
| Norwich | 30 | 9 | 13 | 8 | 39 | 46 | 31 |
| Aston Villa | 28 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 30 | 26 | 29 |
| Bristol City | 31 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 39 | 38 | 29 |
| Middlesbrough | 29 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 31 | 38 | 29 |
| Manchester Utd. | 30 | 11 | 6 | 13 | 45 | 46 | 28 |
| Derby | 28 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 34 | 42 | 27 |
| Chelsea | 29 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 36 | 45 | 27 |
| Ipswich | 29 | 9 | 8 | 12 | 32 | 38 | 26 |
| Wolverhampton | 29 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 36 | 44 | 24 |
| Birmingham | 30 | 10 | 4 | 16 | 38 | 54 | 24 |
| West Ham | 30 | 6 | 8 | 16 | 35 | 50 | 20 |
| Queen's PR | 29 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 33 | 48 | 20 |
| Leicester | 30 | 3 | 11 | 16 | 13 | 44 | 17 |
| Newcastle | 27 | 6 | 3 | 18 | 30 | 49 | 15 |

## EAST GERMANY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FC Magdeburg | 15 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 32 | 8 | 24 |
| Dynamo Dresden | 16 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 38 | 17 | 24 |
| Dynamo Berlin | 16 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 32 | 15 | 22 |
| Lok. Leipzig | 16 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 34 | 19 | 18 |
| Chemie Halle | 16 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 28 | 20 | 18 |
| Karl-Marx-Stadt | 16 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 24 | 20 | 17 |
| Carl Zeiss Jena | 16 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 28 | 24 | 16 |
| Union Berlin | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 21 | 15 |
| Wismut Aue | 16 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 28 | 14 |
| Rot-Weiss Erfurt | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 19 | 13 |
| Sachsenring Zwickau | 16 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 30 | 13 |
| Chemie Bohlen | 16 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 20 | 28 | 12 |
| Vorwarts Frankfurt | 16 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 18 | 11 |
| Wismut Gera | 16 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 14 | 48 | 5 |

## SPAIN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Real Madrid | 24 | 15 | 3 | 6 | 51 | 29 | 33 |
| Barcelona | 24 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 34 | 17 | 31 |
| Gijon | 24 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 38 | 30 | 29 |
| Athletic Bilbao | 24 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 39 | 27 | 27 |
| Rayo Vallecano | 24 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 44 | 33 | 27 |
| Las Palmas | 24 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 34 | 32 | 26 |
| Valencia | 23 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 31 | 21 | 25 |
| Salamanca | 24 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 29 | 29 | 25 |
| Sevilla | 23 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 26 | 29 | 24 |
| Real Sociedad | 24 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 39 | 26 | 24 |
| Atletico Madrid | 24 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 38 | 39 | 22 |
| Espanol Barcelona | 24 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 36 | 47 | 22 |
| Real Betis | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 38 | 37 | 21 |
| Burgos | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 26 | 35 | 21 |
| Elche | 24 | 9 | 3 | 12 | 32 | 44 | 21 |
| Cadiz | 24 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 23 | 53 | 18 |
| Hercules Alicante | 24 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 21 | 34 | 17 |
| Santander | 24 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 20 | 37 | 17 |

## ITALY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juventus | 21 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 32 | 9 | 31 |
| Milan | 21 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 31 | 20 | 27 |
| Torino | 21 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 25 | 16 | 27 |
| Vicenza | 21 | 8 | 10 | 3 | 31 | 24 | 26 |
| Inter | 21 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 22 | 16 | 24 |
| Napoli | 21 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 26 | 17 | 22 |
| Perugia | 21 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 27 | 24 | 22 |
| Verona | 21 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 22 | 20 | 21 |
| Roma | 21 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 22 | 22 | 20 |
| Atalanta | 21 | 3 | 14 | 4 | 19 | 21 | 20 |
| Lazio | 21 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 20 | 25 | 19 |
| Genoa | 21 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 18 | 27 | 17 |
| Bologna | 21 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 15 | 26 | 16 |
| Fiorentina | 21 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 20 | 32 | 15 |
| Foggia | 21 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 31 | 15 |
| Pescara | 21 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 17 | 30 | 14 |

## SWITZERLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grasshoppers | 19 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 53 | 24 | 30 |
| Lausanne | 20 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 45 | 19 | 28 |
| Servette | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 39 | 19 | 27 |
| Basel | 19 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 49 | 28 | 25 |
| Zürich | 20 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 31 | 26 | 24 |
| Sion | 19 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 28 | 28 | 20 |
| Chênois | 20 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 26 | 31 | 18 |
| Neuch. Xamax | 19 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 28 | 38 | 15 |
| St. Gallen | 19 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 24 | 34 | 15 |
| Young Boys | 20 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 23 | 44 | 15 |
| Etoile-Carouge | 20 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 21 | 34 | 13 |
| Young Fellows | 20 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 12 | 54 | 4 |

## SCOTLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rangers | 26 | 18 | 4 | 4 | 58 | 31 | 40 |
| Aberdeen | 26 | 15 | 6 | 5 | 44 | 21 | 36 |
| Dundee United | 24 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 27 | 18 | 26 |
| Partick Thistle | 23 | 10 | 4 | 9 | 31 | 35 | 24 |
| Motherwell | 25 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 33 | 34 | 23 |
| St. Mirren | 25 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 37 | 40 | 22 |
| Celtic | 23 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 33 | 33 | 21 |
| Hibernian | 22 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 20 | 23 | 20 |
| Ayr United | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 24 | 42 | 19 |
| Clydebank | 24 | 3 | 5 | 16 | 14 | 44 | 11 |

## AUSTRIA

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria WAC | 27 | 18 | 7 | 2 | 57 | 24 | 43 |
| Sturm Graz | 27 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 40 | 37 | 30 |
| Rapid | 27 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 51 | 35 | 28 |
| SSW Innsbruck | 25 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 31 | 23 | 27 |
| Grazer AK | 27 | 7 | 12 | 8 | 33 | 35 | 26 |
| VOeEST Linz | 27 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 32 | 38 | 24 |
| Wiener SK/Post | 25 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 31 | 44 | 22 |
| Admira-Wacker | 26 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 36 | 44 | 22 |
| Vienna | 26 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 24 | 42 | 21 |
| Linzer ASK | 27 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 30 | 43 | 21 |


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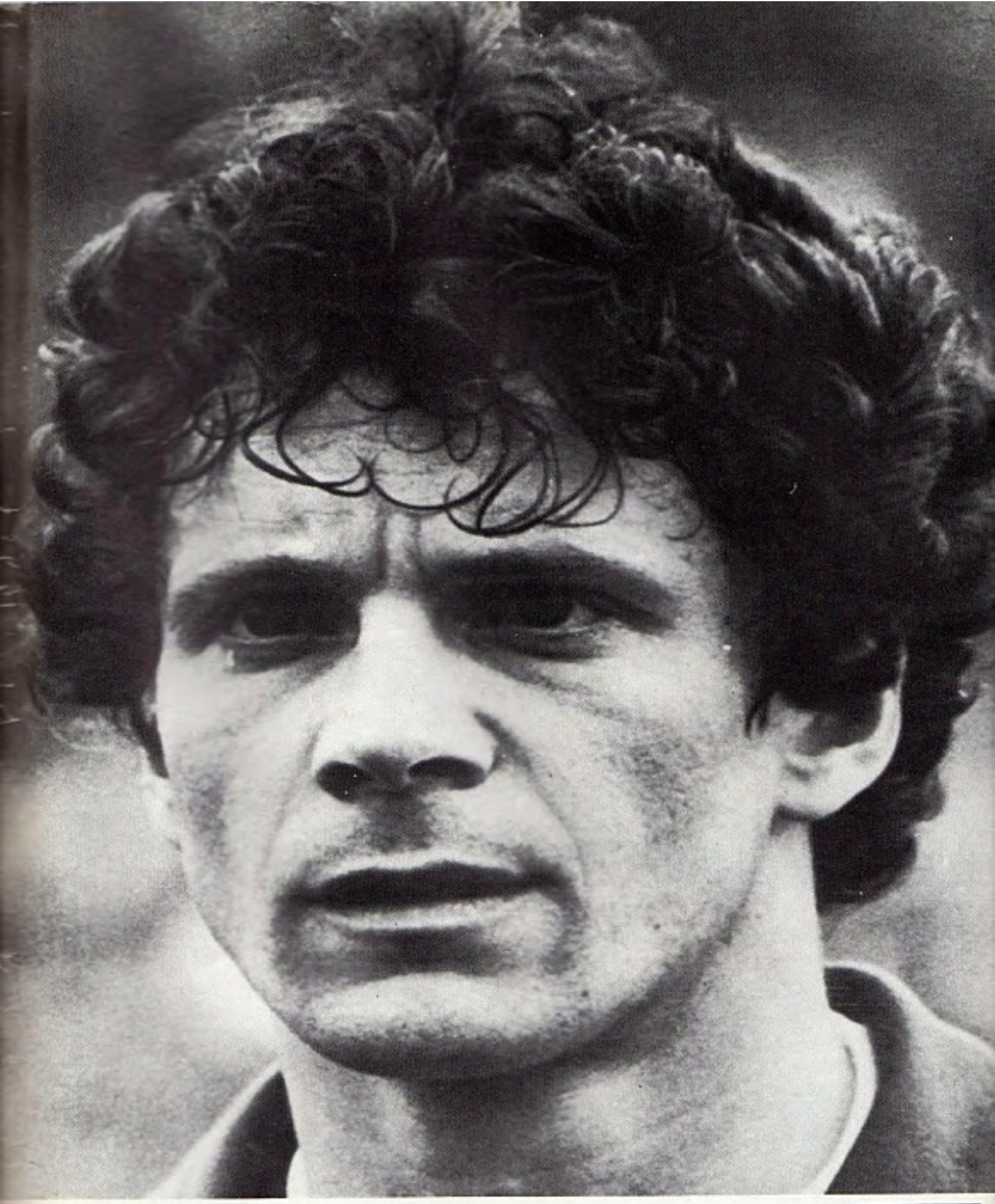

# PETER PERSIDIS Austria

World SOCCER

**MARTIN BUCHAN (left) and DAVID FAIRCLOUGH**

Manchester Utd Liverpool